

SOUTHCENTRAL FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association Building  
Anchorage, Alaska  
February 13, 2017  
9:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Greg Encelewski, Chairman  
Judy Caminer  
Tom Carpenter  
Eleanor Dementi  
Ricky Gease  
Ed Holsten  
Andrew McLaughlin  
Michael Opheim  
Diane Selanoff  
Dan Stevens  
Gloria Stickwan

Regional Council Coordinator, Donald Mike

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

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(Anchorage, Alaska - 2/13/2017)

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(On record)

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MR. MIKE: I just want to briefly have  
a quick introduction of who is online. If you could  
introduce your name and which organization you  
represent, please do so now.

11

12

Thank you.

13

14

15

MR. ANDERSON: Good morning, Donald.  
Jeff Anderson, Fish and Wildlife Service.

16

17

18

MR. MIKE: Good morning, Jeff.

19

20

MS. PHILLIPS: Patricia Phillips,  
Pelican, Alaska.

21

22

23

MR. MIKE: Anyone else.

24

25

(No comments)

26

27

MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, that's it.

28

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30

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34

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Welcome,  
everyone. Sorry for the delay. We had technical  
issues. We're ready to go now. I'm going to go ahead  
and call the Southcentral Region Advisory Council to  
order and it's February 13, 2017. We would like to  
have someone give an invocation here. Gloria, would  
you like to give us a little invocation to start with.

35

36

(Invocation)

37

38

39

40

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,  
Gloria. Would the Secretary call the roll here and  
we'll establish a quorum.

41

42

43

MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
This is Judy Caminer. Ed Holsten.

44

45

46

MR. HOLSTEN: Here.

47

48

49

MS. CAMINER: Eleanor Dementi.

50

MS. DEMENTI: Here.

1 MS. CAMINER: Greg Encelewski.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Here.  
4  
5 MS. CAMINER: Diane Selanoff.  
6  
7 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. Diane Selanoff  
8 was weathered in in Valdez and she will call in  
9 momentarily. She has to run to her office.  
10  
11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
12  
13 MS. CAMINER: Dan Stevens.  
14  
15 MR. STEVENS: Here.  
16  
17 MS. CAMINER: Gloria Stickwan.  
18  
19 MS. STICKWAN: Here.  
20  
21 MS. CAMINER: James Showalter.  
22  
23 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. Mr. Showalter  
24 indicated that he may not be here today, but he might  
25 be available online.  
26  
27 Thank you.  
28  
29 MS. CAMINER: Michael Opheim.  
30  
31 MR. OPHEIM: Here.  
32  
33 MS. CAMINER: Andy McLaughlin.  
34  
35 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Here.  
36  
37 MS. CAMINER: I am here. Ingrid  
38 Peterson.  
39  
40 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. Ms. Ingrid  
41 Peterson didn't respond to my inquiries of her coming  
42 to this meeting. She did not respond to any of my  
43 calls either.  
44  
45 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
46  
47 So she's not present.  
48  
49 MS. CAMINER: Tom Carpenter.  
50

1 MR. CARPENTER: Here.

2  
3 MS. CAMINER: And Ricky Gease.

4  
5 MR. GEASE: Here.

6  
7 MS. CAMINER: So it appears we have a  
8 quorum.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Judy.  
11 We do have a quorum, so we will conduct and we will  
12 establish our business. We're going to start with  
13 welcoming everyone here today. We'll start by  
14 introductions with the Council and we'll go around the  
15 table.

16  
17 We'll start with you.

18  
19 MR. STEVENS: I'm Daniel Stevens. I'm  
20 from Chitina.

21  
22 MS. DEMENTI: I'm Eleanor Dementi. I'm  
23 from Cantwell.

24  
25 MR. HOLSTEN: I'm Ed Holsten. I'm from  
26 Cooper Landing.

27  
28 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Andy McLaughlin from  
29 Chenega Bay.

30  
31 MS. CAMINER: Judy Caminer, Anchorage.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I'm Greg  
34 Encelewski. I'm from Ninilchik.

35  
36 MS. STICKWAN: Gloria Stickwan from  
37 Tazlina.

38  
39 MR. CARPENTER: Tom Carpenter, Cordova.

40  
41 MR. OPHEIM: Michael Opheim, Seldovia.

42  
43 MR. GEASE: Ricky Gease, Kenai.

44  
45 MR. MIKE: Donald Mike, Office of  
46 Subsistence Management.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That's Tina there  
49 doing all the hard work. How about we go through  
50

1 everyone here present today. We'll start with -- how  
2 about you, there.

3  
4 MR. LIND: Good morning. Orville Lind.  
5 I'm from the Office of Subsistence Management. I'm the  
6 Native liaison. Good morning.

7  
8 MR. EVANS: Good morning. I'm Tom  
9 Evans. I'm a wildlife biologist for the Southcentral  
10 RAC.

11  
12 MS. PERRY: Good morning, everyone.  
13 Welcome. My name is DeAnna Perry. I'm with the Forest  
14 Service and I'm the Southeast Council Coordinator.

15  
16 MR. HANKINS: Jesse Hankins, BLM  
17 Glennallen wildlife biologist.

18  
19 MR. I. ENCELEWSKI: Ivan Encelewski  
20 from Ninilchik.

21  
22 MS. SMELCER: Shirley Smelcer, CRITR.  
23 Welcome. Ahtna.

24  
25 MR. GENE: Christopher Gene, Chair for  
26 Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission.

27  
28 MS. CRAVER: Amy Craver, subsistence  
29 manager for Denali National Park and Preserve.

30  
31 MS. GRAHAM: Good morning. Marnie  
32 Graham from the BLM Glennallen Field Office, Associate  
33 Field Manager.

34  
35 MS. CELLARIUS: Barbara Cellarius,  
36 Subsistence Coordinator for Wrangell-St. Elias National  
37 Park and Preserve from Copper Center.

38  
39 MR. DEWITT: Good morning. My name is  
40 Neil DeWitt. I'm just general public here sitting in  
41 listening.

42  
43 MR. WHITFORD: Good morning. My name  
44 is Tom Whitford. I'm the subsistence program leader  
45 for the Forest Service and a member of the Interagency  
46 Staff Committee.

47  
48 MS. PETRIVELLI: I'm Pat Petrivelli  
49 with BIA, subsistence anthropologist, and I work out of  
50

1 Anchorage.

2

3 MR. SKORKOWSKY: Good morning. Robert  
4 Skorkowsky. I'm with the Chugach National Forest, the  
5 District Ranger in Cordova.

6

7 MR. COGSWELL: Good morning. I'm  
8 Stewart Cogswell. I work at the Office of Subsistence  
9 Management.

10

11 MR. JOHNSON: Good morning. Carl  
12 Johnson, Office of Subsistence Management. Good to see  
13 you all.

14

15 MS. LAVINE: Good morning. I'm Robbin  
16 LaVine, anthropologist with the Office of Subsistence  
17 Management.

18

19 MR. REAM: Good morning. I'm Joshua  
20 Ream, also an anthropologist for the Office of  
21 Subsistence Management.

22

23 MR. HARRIS: And good morning. I'm  
24 Scott Harris, a fisheries biologist with the Office of  
25 Subsistence Management.

26

27 MS. LINNELL: I'm Karen Linnell. I'm  
28 the Executive Director for the Ahtna Intertribal  
29 Resource Commission.

30

31 MR. PELTOLA, JR.: Good morning.  
32 Welcome all. Gene Peltola, Jr. I'm the Assistant  
33 Regional Director for the Office of Subsistence  
34 Management.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you and  
37 welcome everyone. Hopefully it will be a very  
38 productive meeting. It looks short, but when you see  
39 these short agendas, you generally run into a lot of  
40 trouble. We'll try and stay on task.

41

42 What I'd like you to do is review and  
43 adopt the agenda. Before we do that I'd like to point  
44 out a couple things to the Council Members. I'd like  
45 to add, if I may, that we do have under reports, under  
46 the Chair's report, there will be a coordinator's  
47 report and that could just be added under 8. We're  
48 going to have a brief meeting of just the Council at  
49 noon just for your information.

50

1 Under 10, under old business, the  
2 revision to the Draft MOU with the State of Alaska,  
3 that's actually going to be moved down and be taken up  
4 by the OSM under our fishery reports or subsistence  
5 reports rather.  
6

7 That will also be where we've got a  
8 call for proposals review of 2016, just between there  
9 and the wildlife proposals. Jennifer Hardin is going  
10 to give us one on 17-01 that will be added to the  
11 agenda. There will be a report on that. At least  
12 that's what I've been instructed to make sure I don't  
13 miss.  
14

15 Go ahead, Donald.  
16

17 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
18 Donald Mike. Under old business I'd like to add item  
19 number (c) for fisheries update and that's where  
20 Fisheries Special Action 17-01 would fall under.  
21

22 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
23

24 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: You're welcome,  
25 Donald. It was on my list here, but I'm just checking  
26 on you. Good. Okay. It's up to the Council.  
27

28 MR. CARPENTER: Mr. Chair. I move we  
29 adopt the agenda as modified.  
30

31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We have a motion  
32 to adopt as modified. Is there a second.  
33

34 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Second.  
35

36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Seconded by Andy.  
37 Open for discussion.  
38

39 (No comments)  
40

41 MR. CARPENTER: Question.  
42

43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: The question has  
44 been called for. All in favor of the agenda as adopted  
45 say aye.  
46

47 IN UNISON: Aye.  
48

49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.  
50

1 (No opposing votes)

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Passes  
4 unanimously. Next item on the agenda is the election  
5 of officers, so I will pass it to our coordinator.

6

7 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Every  
8 year this Council elects new officers during its winter  
9 meeting.

10

11 I will now open the nominations for  
12 Chair.

13

14 MR. CARPENTER: I nominate Greg  
15 Encelewski as Chair.

16

17 MR. MIKE: There's a nomination for  
18 Greg Encelewski for Chair. Any other nominations.

19

20 MS. STICKWAN: I ask for unanimous  
21 consent.

22

23 MR. MIKE: Unanimous consent has been  
24 requested. Any objections.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 MR. MIKE: No objections. Mr.  
29 Encelewski, you are Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: They call that  
32 railroading.

33

34 (Laughter)

35

36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you for the  
37 vote of confidence. I will try and keep us on task and  
38 make sure we have plenty time to discuss issues. If I  
39 miss something, bear with me. I'm creeping up here in  
40 age, so sometimes I don't see as good as I used to.  
41 We'll do the best we can.

42

43 Next is going to be election of Vice  
44 Chair. The floor is open for nominations.

45

46 MR. CARPENTER: Mr. Chair. I move Judy  
47 Caminer.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It's been moved

50



1 for Judy. Is there a second.

2

3

MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Second.

4

5

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Seconded by Andy.

6

7

8

MS. DEMENTI: I nominate Gloria. Oh,  
you don't want it?

9

10

11

12

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: She didn't tell  
you that, but that's okay. Did you want to drop that  
then?

13

14

15

MS. DEMENTI: Yes.

16

17

18

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. It's been  
moved and seconded to nominate Judy Caminer as the Vice  
Chair.

19

20

21

MR. CARPENTER: Mr. Chair. I ask for  
unanimous consent.

22

23

24

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It's been asked  
for unanimous consent. Donald.

25

26

27

MR. MIKE: Was there a nomination for  
Judy for Vice Chair?

28

29

30

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yes.

31

32

33

MR. MIKE: You did. And then there was  
a nomination for Gloria.

34

35

36

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: No. They threw  
that out.

37

38

39

MR. MIKE: Okay. Thank you. Sorry  
about that, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

40

41

42

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I have a  
request for unanimous consent for Judy. All in favor.

43

44

45

IN UNISON: Aye.

46

47

48

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.

49

50

(No opposing votes)

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It's unanimous.

1 Okay. Congratulations, Judy, Vice Chair.

2

3 MS. CAMINER: Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Now we will move  
6 on to Secretary/Treasurer. Open nominations for  
7 Secretary/Treasurer.

8

9 MR. CARPENTER: Mr. Chair. I nominate  
10 Gloria Stickwan.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Gloria has been  
13 nominated.

14

15 MS. CAMINER: Second.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Seconded by Judy.  
18 Discussion.

19

20 MR. CARPENTER: Mr. Chair. I ask  
21 unanimous consent.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Unanimous consent  
24 has been asked for Secretary for Gloria. All in favor,  
25 aye.

26

27 IN UNISON: Aye.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.

30

31 (No opposing votes)

32

33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Congratulations,  
34 Gloria.

35

36 MS. STICKWAN: Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. Yeah,  
39 Eleanor, we didn't tell you there was a change of  
40 positions they wanted.

41

42 MS. DEMENTI: Okay.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. The  
45 next item we have here we want to review the previous  
46 minutes. If you would look over here on Page 7.  
47 Before we do that I want to just make a couple  
48 statements here.

49

50

1 We do have three new Board members that  
2 we need to get to know. We do have Ed here and we've  
3 got Diane and we've got Daniel Stevens from Chitina  
4 there.

5  
6 MS. SELANOFF: I'm on teleconference.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Did Diane call  
9 in?

10  
11 MS. SELANOFF: Yes, I'm here.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Oh, welcome.

14  
15 MS. SELANOFF: Thank you.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We just had  
18 elections. I hope you heard.

19  
20 MS. SELANOFF: I did and I'd like to  
21 congratulate both Gloria Stickwan and Judith.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank you.  
24 Maybe before you got on they elected me, so this is  
25 Greg Encelewski speaking here.

26  
27 MS. SELANOFF: Awesome.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Welcome. Valdez,  
30 you don't have no snow there, do you?

31  
32 MS. SELANOFF: Oh, no. Hardly any.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I just thought  
35 I'd check. Anyway, welcome to the new Council Members.  
36 We do have one now from Valdez, Chitina and Cooper  
37 Landing, which kind of rounds out the Council a little,  
38 which I like to see. So that's very good. Thank you.

39  
40 All right. Back on task. We are  
41 reviewing the minutes of the previous meeting. October  
42 17th and 18th, 2016.

43  
44 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yes, Judy.

47  
48 MS. CAMINER: One clarification.  
49 Donald, I apologize. I meant to send this to you. On  
50

1 Page 11 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, the  
2 working group consisted of myself as you have it, but  
3 also Ricky and Gloria. And we worked with Scott  
4 several times over the summer.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. There's  
7 been a correction added to the FRMP on Page 11. Is  
8 there anything else that needs to be corrected or  
9 added.

10  
11 MR. STEVENS: Gloria and who else was  
12 on there?

13  
14 MS. CAMINER: Ricky was on that working  
15 group too.

16 MR. STEVENS: Okay. I just wanted to  
17 make a note here. Thank you.

18  
19 MR. CARPENTER: Mr. Chairman. I move  
20 we adopt the minutes of October 17, 18, 2016.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: There's a motion  
23 on the floor by Tom Carpenter to adopt the minutes as  
24 corrected here with one correction. Is there a second  
25 to that motion.

26  
27 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Second.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Seconded by Andy  
30 McLaughlin. Any discussion.

31  
32 MR. CARPENTER: Question.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: The question has  
35 been called for. All in favor signify by aye.

36  
37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed same  
40 sign.

41  
42 (No opposing votes)

43  
44 MS. DEMENTI: I'd like to abstain,  
45 please. I was not at that meeting.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Gloria --  
48 excuse me, Eleanor. Thank you. Eleanor abstained.

49  
50

1 Go ahead, Donald.

2

3 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
4 just wanted to remind those online if you have a mute  
5 button, please hit your mute button. If you don't have  
6 it, hit star six.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That was good.  
11 Now we can't hear your morning discussion. Thank you.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We're going to go  
16 ahead and move on to reports. Is there any Council  
17 Member reports.

18

19 Ricky.

20

21 MR. GEASE: So in the fall we voted to  
22 put in a resolution to DOT requesting that they look at  
23 the preferred alternative not being G South, but the  
24 Juneau Creek alternative. A quick update where we are  
25 now. There was a meeting in December with all the  
26 principle parties. I think where it is now that the  
27 Secretary of Interior is going to be requested to  
28 initiate the lands exchange process that's outlined in  
29 the Russian River Lands Act.

30

31 Then hopefully by the next three or  
32 four months CIRI and the Department of Interior can  
33 work on figuring out what lands -- if there could be an  
34 exchange, what that would look like and it would open  
35 up the Juneau Creek alternative to be a preferred  
36 alternative. Without that happening the DOT stated  
37 that the Juneau Creek alternative would be speculative  
38 and they wouldn't consider it, so that's kind of the  
39 first step that's going on right now.

40

41 Once that goes in, there have been  
42 further requests for the 4(f) process to be reexamined  
43 in terms of looking at the least deleterious impacts in  
44 the Cooper Landing area between the G South route and  
45 the Juneau Creek alternative. One of the complaints  
46 was that the G South route didn't fully look at the  
47 impacts on the Kenai River and on the fish habitat on  
48 the Kenai. So there's a request in for that. We'll see  
49 what happens going forward on that.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thanks,  
2 Ricky. Is there any questions for Ricky. Go ahead,  
3 Eleanor.

4  
5 MS. DEMENTI: No, I don't have any.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Oh, okay. Ed.

8  
9 MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah, Ricky. For that  
10 land exchange to go through, I'm under the impression  
11 that it will not need a blessing from Congress, is that  
12 true?

13  
14 MR. GEASE: That is correct. In the  
15 Russian River Lands Act back in the early 2000's it was  
16 passed by Congress and it lists the details specific of  
17 how that agreement land exchange can occur. The first  
18 step is triggered by the Secretary of the Interior  
19 sending a letter of invite with CIRI to participate in  
20 a lands exchange. So this has already been passed by  
21 Congress. It just needs some Department of Interior  
22 action to initiate the process.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Judy.

25  
26 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. For the new  
27 members, this point of the meeting is usually where  
28 people can say or bring information about subsistence  
29 activities in your area or resource concerns that are  
30 going on in your area. Just so you know for next time  
31 you can be ready for that kind of report.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Gloria.

34  
35 MS. STICKWAN: I just want to state  
36 that we don't have a Wrangell-St. Elias SRC. It's  
37 going to be March 1st and 2nd, so I don't have a report  
38 for that, but I do have a concern about shortage of  
39 king salmon on the Copper River. There's a pre-cast of  
40 29,500 surplus and they're going to possibly be looking  
41 into restricting fishwheels or closures. They'll have  
42 an EO out in the next two weeks of what the State will  
43 do.

44  
45 That's a concern for us because a lot  
46 of people don't have the funds to -- you know, they'd  
47 have their fishwheel and to redo it to make a live box  
48 would be a hardship on them. Plus just getting a king  
49 salmon out of a fishwheel box would be very dangerous

50

1 for them because you know it's really hard to get king  
2 salmon out of a fishwheel box when it's live. It's  
3 really hard. So it's going to be very hard on our  
4 people. It's a concern for us.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Are there any  
7 other reports, Council Members. Go ahead, Eleanor.

8

9 MS. DEMENTI: Denali National Park held  
10 a workshop for place naming by Nikolai and Nondalton  
11 and I was invited and so was my daughter invited to  
12 this meeting. It really just brought up the fact that  
13 the Athabaskans up in that area are so much like the  
14 Ahtna people. They had a video of beaver trapping and  
15 it was just like the Ahtna people do it and it was very  
16 very interesting. Amy Craver wrote out a report that I  
17 can share  
18 with everyone.

19

20 Also there was a Memorandum of  
21 Agreement with the United States Department of Interior  
22 with the Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission and this  
23 is on the agenda, so it will be explained by the  
24 president of Ahtna Intertribal. That was a really  
25 awesome deal. I mean we've been working on it for  
26 years and years. It didn't happen like right away or  
27 anything. It took a lot of work with the Ahtna people.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Very good.

30

31 MS. SELANOFF: Mr. Chair. This is  
32 Diane Selanoff.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, go ahead.

35

36 MS. SELANOFF: I wasn't concerned to  
37 the reports portion of it, but I do have a concern in  
38 the area we're in. After 1989 the herring industry as  
39 an industry is no longer what we have to do to subsist  
40 and gather herring as they came in and those numbers  
41 are significantly declining also. So I'd just like to  
42 make it a point to address the herring. The returns  
43 are even more minimal and gradually getting more  
44 significantly minimal.

45

46 That's all I had.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank you,  
2 Diane. I'm not sure we need you to put a proposal for  
3 that too while we're talking about it, but that would  
4 be a good way to address that.

5  
6 MS. SELANOFF: Okay, thank you.

7  
8 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Ms.  
9 Selanoff, this is Donald Mike. The Subsistence  
10 Regional Advisory Council for this region we do not  
11 manage the herring fisheries. That would be under  
12 State management, so you probably would have to submit  
13 a Board of Fish proposal when they have the next  
14 opening for Prince William Sound.

15  
16 Thank you.

17  
18 MS. SELANOFF: Thank you.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That's why he's  
21 coordinator. Good call. Thank you.

22  
23 Go ahead, Ricky.

24  
25 MR. GEASE: I think the deadline for  
26 Prince William Sound proposals next year is April 10th  
27 of this year.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Diane, if you  
30 caught that, April 10th of this year Ricky said is the  
31 deadline for proposals there.

32  
33 MS. SELANOFF: Okay. Thank you.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Donald.

36  
37 MR. MIKE: Ms. Diane Selanoff, this is  
38 Donald Mike again. Mr. Chair. This Council also can  
39 submit a proposal to the  
40 Board of Fish directly if they wish to do so and if you  
41 want to do it, we can further discuss it and come up  
42 with the details.

43  
44 Thank you.

45  
46 MS. SELANOFF: Donald, that's exactly  
47 what I was hoping for. From an individual isn't as  
48 effective, so I was hoping to have it  
49 presented from this board, the concerns. So I'm sure  
50



1 there's going to need to be further communications this  
2 year and it probably will not be very likely that one  
3 is submitted, but I'd like to look at it for a proposal  
4 next year with hopefully more comments regarding the  
5 herring for sure and then a letter from this board, if  
6 that makes sense.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Sounds good.  
9 Sound like the way to go. Thank you.

10  
11 Any other Council Member reports. Go  
12 ahead, Michael.

13  
14 MR. OPHEIM: This isn't Federal, but I  
15 chair the AC in Seldovia and we put in a proposal for  
16 our subsistence fishery there to the Board of Fish to  
17 try and gain some additional fishing area and some  
18 additional fishing time because the fish have been  
19 showing up later and later in our area and we are  
20 hoping to get some time in June. The proposal wasn't  
21 passed at the Board of Fish in Homer, so hopefully  
22 we'll be able to work with Fish and Game during the  
23 season and trying to get some additional fishing time  
24 and fishing area.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Very good. Any  
27 other Council Member reports.

28  
29 (No comments)

30  
31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing none.  
32 I'll go ahead and give you a brief report from my area.  
33 I also sit on the local AC and it's a little bit  
34 frustrating because a lot of the stuff that the local  
35 AC produces is like a lot of councils. You get to the  
36 Board of Fish or the State and you don't seem to go too  
37 far.

38  
39 One of the interesting things that I  
40 wanted to bring out and I don't know if some people do  
41 it, but they've got a winter king fishery and it's been  
42 growing in popularity down on the southern peninsula  
43 there. They've been trying to kind of keep track on  
44 those numbers. They did a genetic survey and I found  
45 that very interesting that those fish come mostly from  
46 the Pacific northwest, Oregon, Washington area and some  
47 other ones, but there was a really high percentage rate  
48 there.

1 I took it on myself to go down last  
2 weekend and take a few of those and see how they  
3 tasted. Anyway, they are very tasty fish and I'm sure  
4 that if those people -- anyway, it's getting to be very  
5 popular. I went last Saturday and there was 15, 20  
6 boats off of Seldovia, just so you know, Michael, but  
7 that's getting to be a popular fishery and those are  
8 mostly wild stocks down there.

9  
10 They also kind of liberalized sports  
11 fishing in the Ninilchik Deep Creek area for kings,  
12 which I feel really is a mistake being they don't  
13 really see the return coming back yet, but that's just  
14 a report on the local level that I see.

15  
16 They've been arguing about moose there.  
17 They're concerned about moose, mostly illegal takes,  
18 but actually the Native people and the locals there  
19 we've taken more moose this year than in the past.  
20 They're actually coming back pretty good in 15C. So  
21 that's what I would report from my area.

22  
23 Then I'm going to move under the  
24 Chair's report and under the Chair's report I've got a  
25 couple things to report. I did attend the Federal  
26 Subsistence Board. They took up some of our  
27 proposals. They took up the proposal on the Kasilof  
28 that the RAC unanimously supported to make permanent.  
29 They chose not to make that permanent. Judy sat in on  
30 some of those debates as I passed the Chair to her as a  
31 potential conflict.

32  
33 Anyway, they voted against that, but  
34 they did change the date on it. We did come to an  
35 agreement and there's an agreement on the Kenai. The  
36 Kenai will be a special action. It will be the same as  
37 last year. They did make an agreement with the Federal  
38 Fish and Wildlife Service and you're going to get a  
39 report on that later today, so that's moving forward.  
40 There will be a public hearing on the 24th in Soldotna,  
41 but it's going to be a special action the same as last  
42 year. We can get into those details.

43  
44 Judy, if you want to report a little  
45 more on the Federal Board, I'll ask you to fill in on  
46 that if you have anything there.

47  
48 MS. CAMINER: I don't think I have  
49 anything to add. You got it.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Well,  
2 hopefully I covered it. Next I have the coordinator's  
3 report and he's going to go ahead and give us that.

4  
5 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
6 just want to remind those public in attendance and  
7 Staff a reminder to please sign in. For those people  
8 that wish to testify we have a sign-in sheet. It's a  
9 blue card. So if you want to provide testimony to this  
10 Council on non-agenda items, you can do so.

11  
12 This morning we had some handouts for  
13 your reference. From BLM the Federal Subsistence moose  
14 harvest status in Unit 13. Wrangell-St. Elias SRC  
15 report. The National Park Service finalized it's  
16 subsistence and wildlife collection regulations. These  
17 are in front of you. Also later on on our agenda we're  
18 going to have a delegation of authority discussion.  
19 OSM had provided a sheet for your reference and review.  
20 It's a double-sided printout of the delegation of  
21 authority letters.

22  
23 Also in front of you is a Draft Alaska  
24 Native Relations Policy. Just for your information  
25 only. You can review that at your leisure and provide  
26 this to the public if they wish to provide comments to  
27 this Native Relations Policy.

28  
29 Later on as we progress through the  
30 meeting I'll have the Draft Annual Report that this  
31 Council put together at its fall meeting. We'll also  
32 have a Policy on Nonrural Determinations just for  
33 information. And the Office of Subsistence Management  
34 staffing update report. Also, as Ms. Dementi was  
35 speaking about, there's a handout from Denali National  
36 Park update to the Southcentral Council on the Native  
37 Place Names Workshop.

38  
39 Finally, I'd like to introduce Ms.  
40 DeAnna Perry. She will be following this Council for  
41 the next two meeting and eventually she will be the  
42 coordinator for the Southcentral Region. I'll maintain  
43 my coordinatorship with Bristol Bay and when the Ahtna  
44 Subsistence Committee gets approved, I'll probably be  
45 the designated Federal official for that committee. So  
46 Ms. DeAnna Perry will be shadowing this Council for the  
47 next two meeting cycles. Next winter she will be your  
48 new coordinator.

49  
50

1 MS. PERRY: I just wanted to say hi and  
2 I hope to meet each one of you individually during this  
3 meeting. Looking forward to knowing more about the  
4 Southcentral issues. Again, just looking forward to  
5 working with you all.

6  
7 Thank you.

8  
9 MR. MIKE: Thank you, DeAnna. I just  
10 want to remind the Council that February 24th the  
11 Office of Subsistence Management is holding a public  
12 hearing in Kenai on the Kenai fisheries subsistence  
13 fishery. The public hearing will be at the U.S. Fish  
14 and Wildlife Service Visitor's Center in Kenai. The  
15 public hearing will begin at 5:30 and end at 7:30.

16  
17 I understand the Board of Fish will be  
18 meeting here in Anchorage and we will provide  
19 teleconference access to those that wish to call in  
20 from Anchorage on a public hearing that will be  
21 occurring in Kenai.

22  
23 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.  
26 DeAnna, welcome. One thing that I know Carl is going  
27 to disagree, but, you know, we never gave Donald  
28 permission to go anywhere.

29  
30 (Laughter)

31  
32 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Anyway, I just  
33 wanted you to know that. Anyway, thank you. For that  
34 February 24th meeting, my understanding is that's on  
35 the special action, correct?

36  
37 MR. MIKE: That is correct. Fisheries  
38 Special Action 17-01.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank you.  
41 The next item I have is public and tribal comments on  
42 non-agenda items and that's available every morning.  
43 So I just want to mention that. Is there anything.

44  
45 (No comments)

46  
47 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: At this time  
48 there is none. So at this time we're going to move to  
49 old business. The first item under old business,

50

1 number 10, is Delegation of Authority.

2

3 MS. SELANOFF: Mr. Chair. Do you have  
4 an additional handout on the Delegation of Authority  
5 that was made available today?

6

7 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. I can email you  
8 a copy later on today for your records, but I don't  
9 have internet access at the time for me to send you a  
10 copy.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 MS. SELANOFF: All right. Thanks.

15

16 MR. EVANS: Good morning, Mr. Chair.  
17 Members of the board here. My name is Tom Evans. I  
18 work as a wildlife biologist for the Fish and Wildlife  
19 Service, Division of OSM. The Southcentral RAC is one  
20 of my regions along with the North Slope and the  
21 Kodiak/Aleutian areas.

22

23 At one of our previous meetings, I  
24 think Andy brought it up, he wanted a summary of the  
25 Delegation of Authority actions that have occurred for  
26 the Southcentral Region. So I put together a table,  
27 which you guys have in front of you, which lists all  
28 the special actions -- I mean all the delegation of  
29 authority letters.

30

31 You'll notice that it's a mixture --  
32 first of all it's organized by units, so it goes  
33 sequentially from Unit 6 all the way up to Unit 15.  
34 You'll notice it's a mixture of Delegation of Authority  
35 letters for culture camps and things like that as well  
36 as for wildlife-related issues. It's just wildlife, no  
37 fisheries listed here.

38

39 Andy wanted to know about sunset  
40 clause. I know that was an issue that was brought up  
41 before. There are no sunset clauses for any of these  
42 delegation of authority letters. I know the Council  
43 submitted a delegation -- when a Delegation of  
44 Authority letter came up before, you guys requested a  
45 sunset clause from one of them, but the Board did not  
46 accept that. It accepted the Delegation of Authority,  
47 but not with a sunset clause.

48

49 So that's just a brief summary of where

50

1 we're at now. I just wanted to let you know that I'm  
2 here to answer any questions if you have any.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thanks,  
5 Tom. I'm sure there's going to be some questions here  
6 if you give us a moment. We'll take a look at this.  
7 Andy, are you ready to start or you had a question.

8  
9 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I'm just curious how  
10 many fisheries Delegations of Authority are there.  
11 This seems to be wildlife ones.

12  
13 MR. EVANS: Yeah, I did not do fishery  
14 ones. I just did the wildlife ones for this.

15  
16 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Through the Chair. Is  
17 there a number, a general estimate of how many?

18  
19 MR. EVANS: I do not know on the  
20 fishery side. Maybe somebody from the fishery program  
21 here could speak to that.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Donald.

24  
25 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
26 Fishery special action or Delegation of Authority, I  
27 think we have one for the Kenai Refuge and I think Jeff  
28 Anderson from the Kenai Field Office has a Delegation  
29 of Authority to open or close seasons on the Kenai  
30 River. Mr. Anderson, are you still online to clarify?

31  
32 MR. ANDERSON: Through the Chair. Yes,  
33 Donald, I am still online. My delegated authority is  
34 for the project leader of the Kenai Fish and Wildlife  
35 Conservation Office and in that capacity I serve as the  
36 general in-season manager for Federal subsistence  
37 fisheries in Cook Inlet.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Copper River.

40  
41 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. We have our  
42 representative from the Copper River District.

43  
44 MS. CELLARIUS: For the record, this is  
45 Barbara Cellarius, subsistence coordinator for  
46 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. The  
47 Superintendent of Wrangell-St. Elias has a delegated  
48 authority for managing the salmon fishery or the  
49 fishery in the Upper Copper River. We generally open  
50

1 and close the Chitina Subdistrict in coordination with  
2 the State openings and closures.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Judy.

5  
6 MS. CAMINER: I can't remember. Is  
7 there one for the Lower Copper River or also for part  
8 of the Denali area too, something different?

9  
10 MS. CELLARIUS: All I know off the top  
11 of my head for Wrangell-St. Elias is that Upper Copper  
12 River. I could pull the letter up on my computer to  
13 see exactly what it says.

14  
15 MR. EVANS: I was just informed that  
16 the Forest Service has delegated authority for the  
17 Lower Copper River.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Tom.

20  
21 MR. CARPENTER: Thank you very much.  
22 It would be nice, maybe not obviously during this  
23 meeting, but if the list of the fisheries that have a  
24 Delegation of Authority could be created so that the  
25 RAC members could have a list in front of them whenever  
26 they're dealing with issues in regards to this.

27  
28 I think the one thing that I want to  
29 bring up and I've brought it up in the past is at least  
30 for the Delegation of  
31 Authority in Unit 6 and this Delegation of Authority  
32 came after the one that was granted to the area on the  
33 Kenai Peninsula where there's been a lot of controversy  
34 about opening and closing seasons.

35  
36 We made a motion as a RAC to the Board  
37 to give the Delegation of Authority to the district  
38 ranger in Cordova for deer and moose with the  
39 understanding that a sunset clause was to be placed.  
40 Granted, I understood what you said that the Board  
41 accepted the Delegation of Authority recommendation but  
42 that they did not include the sunset clause.

43  
44 My contention is that I don't think  
45 that this RAC would have given Delegation of Authority  
46 to the district ranger in Cordova without the sunset  
47 clause. So I actually take exception to what the Board  
48 did. They basically modified our recommendation  
49 without any consultation back to the RAC before that

50

1 was put in place.

2  
3 So I'm not sure how to rectify that  
4 problem. I think that's one of the reasons that I have  
5 somewhat of a sour taste in my mouth over these  
6 Delegation of Authorities. I understand that you're  
7 not the Federal Board and you don't make those calls,  
8 but I think it's important when the Interagency Staff  
9 or these conversations take place at the Board meeting  
10 that the RAC's reflection is given to the Board during  
11 their deliberations in full context so that the Board  
12 really understands what the RAC's main idea was.

13  
14 That's all I have.

15  
16 MS. SELANOFF: Mr. Chair, I have a  
17 question.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Tom.

20  
21 Go ahead, Diane.

22  
23 MS. SELANOFF: This Delegation of  
24 Authority, what authority did they delegate to Mr.  
25 Evans, I believe? What is he authorized to do on our  
26 behalf.

27  
28 MR. EVANS: Hi, Diane. I have no  
29 delegation of authority. The Delegation of Authorities  
30 are usually given to the land managers in the area  
31 where the Delegation of Authority issue came up. So  
32 some of these issues like for the Southcentral, some of  
33 them belong to the Forest Service, there might be one  
34 for the Park Service and then the Fish and Wildlife  
35 Service. For like different land managers in those  
36 areas.

37  
38 For the one that Tom was just talking  
39 about for the Cordova District Ranger, it was to set  
40 Federal subsistence harvest quotas, close and reopen  
41 and adjust Federal seasons or to adjust harvest and  
42 possession limits for deer and moose. That's the  
43 Delegation of Authority that was given to the Chugach  
44 District Ranger.

45  
46 MS. SELANOFF: Okay. So he adjusts  
47 that, but how -- does he consult with the RAC in  
48 advance or does he just -- I'm sorry, I'm still trying  
49 to learn this process. When he has authority to do

50



1 that, does he consult with anybody or does he just make  
2 a decision?

3  
4 MR. EVANS: Milo is the biologist with  
5 that district ranger and he's been very good about  
6 working with the local RACs. He's been in front of  
7 this board many times. So when decisions are made, I  
8 get the impression that he's informed everybody and  
9 there's been a discussion before decisions are made on  
10 adjusting deer or moose seasons in that area.

11  
12 MS. SELANOFF: Okay. So, for example,  
13 when he makes his decision, he contacts the people in  
14 the area or the unit as one of the ways of how to make  
15 a decision.

16  
17 MS. SKORKOWSKY: For the record, this  
18 is Robert Skorkowsky, District Ranger from Cordova.  
19 Just to speak to that, the letter, Delegation of  
20 Authority, outlines for me the process of coordination,  
21 both with the RAC and with the managing other  
22 organizations that I need to work through for that  
23 process of making any changes or adjustments. As far  
24 as I'm aware, it seems to have worked fairly well in  
25 Prince William Sound and Unit 6.

26  
27 Just for clarification, I just wanted  
28 to mention that the delegations with deer and moose and  
29 then I believe there's a separate one recently for  
30 black bear that was discussed and the fisheries  
31 delegation is for the delta as well as freshwater in  
32 Prince William Sound.

33  
34 Thank you.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Diane, this is  
37 Greg, the Chair here. We'll try to get you up to speed  
38 on some of that, the way it works. I know as Chair I  
39 get called on the Kenai sometimes, but it's not a real  
40 defined process. They do kind of notify us. The  
41 reason we wanted this delegation, we're going to debate  
42 it here some more, I'm going to let Andy talk, but once  
43 we give the delegation it appears to be out there  
44 forever and there's no sunset clause. Some of our  
45 questions from our RAC has been, you know, a delegation  
46 without frameworks we question that in the first place.

47  
48  
49 Anyway, we're going to move forward.

50

1 Andy, go ahead.

2

3 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I'd like to start off  
4 and say Milo has done a stellar job at consulting  
5 people, but if he moved along and somebody else was in  
6 that position, we don't know what the next person down  
7 the line in the future would do. I'd just like to  
8 concur with every single word Mr. Carpenter over there  
9 said. I couldn't put it that eloquently. It was spot  
10 on.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

13

14 Gloria.

15

16 MS. STICKWAN: Did the Federal Board  
17 give a reason why they didn't want to have a sunset  
18 clause?

19

20 MR. EVANS: I don't know the exact  
21 reason, but I think they basically -- maybe.....

22

23 MR. SHARP: Dan Sharp with Bureau of  
24 Land Management. I serve on the Interagency Staff  
25 Committee. The Board's reasoning behind not putting in  
26 a sunset clause, in fact removing it, was simply the  
27 fact that the RAC can at any time request that the  
28 delegation be rescinded for cause or whatever else. By  
29 putting a sunset clause administratively simply adds to  
30 the timing of doing another delegation, going through  
31 this RAC again. It sets up a process where it ends, it  
32 begins, it ends, it begins.

33

34 The Board's preference was to allow the  
35 RAC, if they're dissatisfied with the manager or his  
36 particular delegation or how he's exercised that  
37 authority is for the RAC to request that the Board  
38 rescind it or change it in some fashion. But a sunset  
39 clause simply adds administrative work to the process  
40 and it's not done anywhere else, so it was primarily an  
41 administrative function as opposed to a check and  
42 balance.

43

44 It is well within the RAC's authority  
45 for any decision to complain to the Board and that I  
46 think was the Board's perception of how the process  
47 should work.

48

49 Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Michael.

2  
3 MR. OPHEIM: I think it was brought up  
4 at the last meeting. How old are some of these  
5 Delegations of Authority and are some of them still  
6 actually required? Can they be brought to us so we can  
7 go over them and see. Maybe some of them can be  
8 removed.

9  
10 MR. EVANS: As Dan mentioned, the Board  
11 can request any of the Delegation of Authorities to be  
12 removed if they think they're not valid or being used  
13 anymore. The list that you have in front of you is the  
14 list of all the ones we think are active right now. As  
15 you know, there's probably about half of these deal  
16 with cultural and educational camps of that sort.

17  
18 As far as when they were enacted, a  
19 couple of these were enacted in 2009, so way back then.  
20 Some of the other ones were just redone recently as of  
21 2015. So even though we went through a process of  
22 trying to get all our records straight and update all  
23 the Delegation of Authority letters, most of these have  
24 a date of 2015 on them, but the board, it's in their  
25 purview to look these over and make recommendations if  
26 they think that some of these are no longer valid or no  
27 longer in the interest of the board -- of the RAC I  
28 mean.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Ricky, go ahead.

31  
32 MR. GEASE: Considering the  
33 administrative issues, maybe it would be incumbent upon  
34 us to make it on a 10-year calendar or a 6-year  
35 calendar or something like that where it's part of our  
36 business at one of the meetings we just review this and  
37 it's part of an agenda item, so it's not every year.  
38 You know, you don't get bogged down and stuff. But  
39 just as a review of what's happening. I think  
40 something on a six to eight to ten-year cycle,  
41 something like that, would be appropriate.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I think  
44 that might be a good suggestion, Ricky. One of the  
45 problems that we have -- and, Tom, I think you brought  
46 up an interesting point to me is that the RAC can ask  
47 that it be rescinded at any time. Well, generally by  
48 the time it gets back to the RAC it's too late because  
49 we haven't -- you know, we can't do no action on it for  
50

1 another year or two-year cycle or it's got to go  
2 through a special action. One of the things is when  
3 we've had problems with Delegation of Authorities and  
4 tried to get it back to the RAC, that's almost  
5 impossible to get it back at the time.

6  
7 I know just talking with the Council  
8 here, all of you, one of our concerns is if you get one  
9 that has a Delegation of authority that is -- you know,  
10 we're taking the authority of the advice of our Council  
11 and we're putting it in the hands of that person and if  
12 they're just closing it down for us and no options,  
13 then we're kind of hosed.

14  
15 So I would like to see a review of it.  
16 I would like to see it all encompassed and maybe some  
17 limitations by the RAC or someone because it's pretty  
18 open-ended. That's what I'm trying to say in a way.

19  
20 And my understanding, Carl, and you're  
21 the one that got the legalese on this, is the  
22 delegation has to have pretty good framework. So if it  
23 has the framework and everyone is okay with it, it  
24 should be all right.

25  
26 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
27 For the record, Carl Johnson, Office of Subsistence  
28 Management. I think if the Council wants to take the  
29 suggestion that Mr. Sharp had, that it kind of acts as  
30 a periodic reviewer and checker of delegated  
31 authorities. Ricky's suggestion is a good one.

32  
33 A logical step would be as part of your  
34 agency reports you just ask the land manager who has  
35 the delegated authority to come in at whatever interval  
36 you find appropriate to just ask them to give a  
37 briefing to you on what actions they've taken under  
38 their delegated authority so you're informed of it. A  
39 logical time, if you want to have some sort of  
40 systematic review as Ricky suggested, the logical time  
41 would be in connection with the beginning of a wildlife  
42 cycle.

43  
44 So if you heard a report about  
45 something and you wanted to modify the delegated  
46 authority in some way and respond to Dan's suggestion  
47 about bringing it back to the Board, then that would be  
48 a logical time because then you could submit a proposal  
49 as part of the wildlife cycle to make any modifications  
50

1 you feel are necessary.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Carl.

4

5 Judy.

6

7 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8 And thanks, Carl. I think that's a good suggestion.

9 Not to take the discussion too far back, but it might

10 be good, especially for our new people, to explain why

11 the Board has delegated authorities and how that's

12 supposed to be beneficial to users.

13

14 MR. EVANS: Okay. I'll give a brief

15 summary. The main reason why I think Delegation of

16 Authority actions are given to land managers is because

17 it basically provides a mechanism to

18 shorten the -- if someone requests something, a change

19 in the regulation, extension of the season, under the

20 normal process if there's an area where there isn't

21 delegated authority, we have to go through the special

22 action process. The special action process can take

23 some time due to all the reviews that it takes. Also

24 that isn't very timely either.

25

26 Whereas if the land manager has a

27 delegated authority, they can just consider the request

28 and act on it in a much more timely basis. That was

29 one of the issues Greg was bringing up, that these

30 things aren't timely and by the time you get through

31 the process, you know, the season is over and it's kind

32 of a moot point.

33

34 So that's the reason why a Delegation

35 of Authority is such a good mechanism for getting quick

36 changes done during a season or quickly if the weather

37 changes or there's been a season where you can't hunt

38 moose because there hasn't been enough snow cover or

39 the local residents haven't been able to get their

40 quota because of other reasons if they want to extend a

41 season or something. So that's the general benefit of

42 having Delegation of Authority.

43

44 MR. JOHNSON: I'll add to that, Mr.

45 Chair, that they often are also in possession of the

46 most current information and they can respond to it

47 when they see it rather than waiting for somebody to

48 tell them to respond to it. They can respond with

49 real-time information whereas that's something the

50

1 Board is not capable of doing. It takes a while for  
2 that information to trickle to the Board to make a  
3 decision under the special action process that Tom  
4 mentioned.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Carl.  
7 I guess some of the points I'd bring up is sometimes I  
8 question that and it's a process of, you know, if you  
9 set a regulation and then someone jumps to make a quick  
10 decision, I know that -- and I'm going to get off here  
11 and you guys stop me if I get in trouble.

12  
13 Anyway, the Board of Fish makes a lot  
14 of authorities and emergency actions, kind of like a  
15 Delegation of Authority, and they stop and open and  
16 close seasons. Well, they do it all the time, but they  
17 do it after the damn fish are up the river, you know,  
18 and it's too late.

19  
20 So some of our Delegations of Authority  
21 sometime are premature or sometimes they've happened  
22 before anyone else was closed and that's why I think  
23 it's got to be a real bad sore spot. That's all we're  
24 saying. No one is perfect. You don't have a crystal  
25 ball, but these Delegations of Authority should be  
26 used at the absolute minimum and really favor the  
27 subsistence users is my point.

28  
29 Tom.

30  
31 MR. CARPENTER: I think one of the  
32 interesting points of  
33 the Delegation of Authority is that we've got a lot of  
34 different philosophies in regards to how different  
35 Federal agencies manage their land. So, as a RAC, we  
36 sit here with a reasonable idea for a moose population,  
37 a harvest level and we get that, the Board passes it,  
38 but depending which agency is going to be managing the  
39 land where that hunt is going to take place, the person  
40 that's the manager is going to use his Delegation of  
41 Authority quite differently than the guy next door with  
42 a different philosophy on how to manage his land.

43  
44 I think that's where the problem takes  
45 place and I think that's why a lot of people on the RAC  
46 that have been here for any time at all have seen  
47 problems on the Kenai Peninsula based on philosophy and  
48 I don't necessarily know that all the Delegation of  
49 Authorities have issues, but I don't think that the  
50

1 philosophy is taken into account when some of these  
2 delegations were given out.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Gloria.

5  
6 MS. STICKWAN: I was just wondering is  
7 it possible to get an update of all the Delegation of  
8 Authorities for fisheries as well. Also I don't see  
9 the Unit 13 moose that was done this winter. Is it  
10 down here? Is it the Unit 13 moose/caribou one? Is  
11 that what you're referring to?

12  
13 MR. EVANS: Unit 15 within the Kenai  
14 Refuge?

15  
16 MS. STICKWAN: No. I'm talking about  
17 Unit 13.

18  
19 MR. EVANS: So Unit 13 has two  
20 Delegation of Authorities, or three actually. It has  
21 one to the BLM Glennallen Field Office Manager for the  
22 Tazlina/Chickaloon Culture Camp. Another one to the  
23 BLM Glennallen Field Office for the Hudson Lake  
24 Residential Treatment Camp. The final one again to the  
25 BLM Field Office Manager to issue permits to harvest  
26 either two caribou or one bull moose for the Ahtna  
27 Heritage Foundation Culture Camp.

28  
29 MS. STICKWAN: They did one this fall,  
30 right?

31  
32 MR. EVANS: What?

33  
34 MS. STICKWAN: The BLM manager came  
35 here and told us he did one for this fall. It's not on  
36 here?

37  
38 MR. EVANS: I think that was a special  
39 action.

40  
41 MS. STICKWAN: A special action?

42  
43 MR. EVANS: Uh-huh (affirmative).

44  
45 MS. STICKWAN: Okay. But could we get  
46 the fisheries one? I was just wondering does  
47 Wrangell-St. Elias have delegation for fisheries on the  
48 Copper River upper?

49  
50

1 MR. EVANS: Yeah.

2  
3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Donald.

4  
5 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The  
6 fisheries office in OSM will provide the rest of all  
7 the Delegation of Authorities for the fisheries  
8 statewide, so we'll have a list for the fisheries  
9 Delegation of Authority also.

10  
11 Thank you.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Judy, go  
14 ahead.

15  
16 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. So, Donald,  
17 could that just be emailed to us whenever that's  
18 completed, please.

19  
20 MR. MIKE: Yes, that will be emailed  
21 and faxed as soon as I get those.

22  
23 MS. CAMINER: Thank you.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We're  
26 having a great discussion. We've got a lot of things  
27 to do here. Ricky, go ahead.

28  
29 MR. GEASE: Understanding that we're  
30 just the Southcentral RAC, have any other RACs had this  
31 issue or brought this topic up as a point of  
32 information or a point of tracking?

33  
34 MR. JOHNSON: Through the Chair, Ricky.  
35 I believe this is unique to the Southcentral Region as  
36 this being kind of a general issue that is frequently  
37 discussed. The only time that other Councils have  
38 discussed Delegation of Authority is in the context of  
39 a specific regulatory proposal.

40  
41 I'll add to that in kind of a response  
42 to some of Tom's comments that the best thing you can  
43 do as a Council is to kind of build on this suggested  
44 approach of dealing with this issue is come up with  
45 reports from the land managers, how they're using their  
46 delegated authority, have specific discussions on the  
47 record and about specific concerns and then kind of  
48 have that building the record approach of approaching  
49 particular issues of concern and then identifying

50



1 those.

2

3

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Tom.

4

5

6 MR. CARPENTER: Carl, I heard you  
7 comment earlier in regards to maybe having some sort of  
8 review process like Ricky suggested. So give me some --  
9 when do you think it would be the best time to do that?  
10 Every four years, every six years? I just want  
11 something to be semi-regularly in regards to creating a  
12 motion here. I'm just looking for some guidance to  
13 when you think it would be applicable.

13

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MR. JOHNSON: Through the Chair.  
That's really kind of at the discretion of the Council,  
but it really depends on how much changes, how much  
those delegated authorities are used. Tom suggests  
that a six-year timeframe would be good because that  
gives you enough time to see how it's implemented  
because it does take a while. You know, first go  
through the regulatory process of getting those in  
place and then seeing how they're utilized.

I know that the biologists like to see  
trends rather than spikes of data before they discern  
whether or not a particular management approach is  
working. So it seems like that would make sense as  
well with reviewing your delegated authorities within  
your region.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Tom,  
you've got something else.

MR. CARPENTER: Mr. Chairman. I'd make  
a motion that the Southcentral RAC review all  
Delegation of Authorities each concurrent with the  
wildlife cycle and the fisheries cycle so they don't  
all have to be done at one meeting every five years.

MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Second.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We've got a  
motion on the table that's been moved by Tom to have  
the review for the fisheries and the wildlife every  
five years and seconded by Andy.

MR. CARPENTER: I meant to say six,  
excuse me, not five.

1 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Second.

2  
3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, second  
4 concurs it's every six years.

5  
6 MR. CARPENTER: Mr. Chairman. I'll  
7 speak to it. I think it's, like you say, something  
8 that we've talked about quite a bit. I think there's  
9 been what a lot of the RAC Members perceive to be some  
10 slight manipulation of the Delegation of Authority to a  
11 certain degree. I think for the most part all the  
12 Federal managers throughout the region have acted  
13 appropriately and  
14 consultation has taken place, but it's never a bad idea  
15 to review  
16 something that's in place semi-regularly and I think  
17 this will put an end to some of the concern people  
18 have.

19  
20 If we find there's certain Delegation  
21 of Authorities that haven't been working correctly,  
22 then we can recommend to the Board at that time that  
23 they rescind that authority and that's about the best  
24 we can do.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any other  
27 discussion.

28  
29 (No comments)

30  
31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing none.  
32 The question is in order, I guess.

33  
34 MS. CAMINER: Question.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: The question has  
37 been called for by Judy. All in favor aye.

38  
39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.

42  
43 (No opposing votes)

44  
45 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We made a  
46 motion. We're still on Delegation of Authority as far  
47 as I'm concerned. Is there anything else, Donald, that  
48 we need to address on that? Does anyone want to talk  
49 to us on a delegation that hasn't spoken? Do you have  
50

1 any bright ideas?

2

3 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. No, I don't. My  
4 impression for the Delegation of Authority was that it  
5 would only be wildlife that the Delegation of Authority  
6 had an effect on, but the Council has made a motion to  
7 review the Delegation of Authority every six years and  
8 we'll bring that forth to our leadership team and make  
9 sure that happens.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. A question  
14 for you, Donald. I guess Carl probably answered this,  
15 but basically the RAC can ask that one be rescinded at  
16 any time, so that could come up at any RAC meeting,  
17 correct?

18

19 MR. MIKE: Yes, that is correct.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Judy.

22

23 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So  
24 I guess two logistical questions would be when would we  
25 start this and if we do this review in concurrence  
26 with the wildlife meeting where we're reviewing  
27 proposals, that'll be a long meeting, so we'll probably  
28 have to do a little agenda management so that we don't  
29 add a whole bunch of other items and be able to get  
30 through that. That would just be my guess.

31

32 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. Yes, that's  
33 going to be a discussion within our office as to when  
34 to start the Delegation of Authority review. Carl.

35

36 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. I think given  
37 that the appropriate agencies and land managers haven't  
38 been briefed and asked to provide a report for this  
39 meeting, a logical time to start would be to start your  
40 first review of fisheries next year at your call for  
41 fisheries proposals and then wildlife the next wildlife  
42 cycle, so we'd be fully prepared with both the amount  
43 of time necessary to conduct the meeting and then also  
44 the appropriate staff resources to provide you adequate  
45 briefings to discuss those issues.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That sounds  
48 reasonable, Carl, to me if that's in agreement with the  
49 Council. I think that sounds reasonable and logical.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 Ivan, would you want to come forward.

4 I've got a request for a talk on Delegation of  
5 Authorities by the Ninilchik Traditional Council.

6

7 MR. I. ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Mr.  
8 Chairman. Members of the Council. For the record, my  
9 name is Ivan Encelewski. I'm the executive director  
10 for the Ninilchik Traditional Council. Also a  
11 Federally qualified subsistence user.

12

13 I just want to talk a little bit about  
14 Delegation of Authority and I know I testified  
15 extensively at the last meeting in October about this  
16 issue. I think this issue is obviously near and dear  
17 to our heart because it's something that affects our  
18 community quite a bit.

19

20 So I guess as a general rule we support  
21 the idea of a Delegation of Authority obviously because  
22 the Federal Subsistence Board -- it's such a broad --  
23 you have to delegate in-season management because  
24 obviously you have in-season things going on for  
25 managing fish and wildlife resources. So the idea is  
26 good. Unfortunately in our area it's been used for  
27 both benefit and in a negative context as well.

28

29 With that respect, I think Mr.  
30 Encelewski had mentioned one time where in the past  
31 former in-season managers had closed Federal  
32 subsistence fisheries before State fishery and so I  
33 would just echo Mr. McLaughlin and Mr. Carpenter's  
34 comments regarding some of those concerns. It really  
35 depends on the philosophy of the in-season manager and  
36 what the context is for who is going to be managing  
37 those resources at a later date because that kind of  
38 changes quite a bit.

39

40 One thing I will say is that we're very  
41 familiar with this issue from a legal perspective. It  
42 was part of a lawsuit that we were involved with with  
43 Delegation of Authority. As you may know, the  
44 Delegation of Authority is derived from 50 CFR  
45 100.10(d)(6) and that says that -- the regulation  
46 states that the Board may "delegate to agency officials  
47 the authority to set harvest and possession limits,  
48 define harvest areas, specify  
49 methods or means of harvest, specify permit

50

1 requirements, and open or close specific fish or  
2 wildlife harvest seasons within frameworks established  
3 by the Board."  
4

5 That's our big concern is that the  
6 Delegation of Authorities and specifically in relation  
7 to Ninilchik we don't believe that they have those  
8 specific frameworks established by the Board. So when  
9 the Board gives a Delegation of Authority to an in-  
10 season manager, they says, okay, manage that fishery  
11 stock and here's your Delegation of Authority, but  
12 they're not saying, you know, if a minimum escapement  
13 goal was not met, do this. I mean there's no specific  
14 framework.  
15

16 So they have carte blanche authority to  
17 do whatever, whenever, however essentially and that's  
18 where it gets a little shaky because you're giving  
19 basically one person complete and total veto power over  
20 an entire fishery and that's become kind of our  
21 concern.  
22

23 If the Federal Board doesn't establish  
24 clear delineations of at least structures or frameworks  
25 as the actual statutory language requires, then it  
26 allows some ambiguity for how those managers may  
27 implement those Delegations of Authority. So they  
28 basically have total, overall control.  
29

30 I can give you examples. I gave you a  
31 negative example where a fishery was closed before a  
32 State fishery. On a positive side, under a Delegation  
33 of Authority under a moose season, we had the Refuge  
34 Manager asking for a Delegation of Authority to be able  
35 to -- instead of -- our Units are 15A, B and C in our  
36 area and they wanted to break the unit down to 15C  
37 because the population in 15C for bull moose was  
38 actually increasing and  
39 doing well and 15A wasn't doing so well. So if they  
40 had the Delegation of Authority, then they could kind  
41 of delineate that out, keep C open, keep A and B  
42 closed.  
43

44 So there's an example where it works to  
45 your benefit, but if it works in the negative where an  
46 in-season manager says, no, I'm going to close a  
47 subsistence fishery before a State fishery, then we  
48 view that as obviously a concern.  
49  
50

1 So there's a lot to this Delegation of  
2 Authority and I'm glad to see that the RAC is taking a  
3 look at this because this is definitely something that  
4 we've had a lot of concern with and that we're working  
5 potentially with the Federal Subsistence Board and I'd  
6 like to see the RAC actively engaged in and really  
7 stress in the end that Delegation of Authorities work  
8 really well when you have a good working symbiotic  
9 relationship with your in-season manager, but if you  
10 have a different philosophy or a different agreement,  
11 they can be used as a weapon against you.

12  
13 Very very clearly against the Federal  
14 subsistence users where you have absolutely no control  
15 over your subsistence resources and you're just at the  
16 whim of the in-season manager. So without those  
17 frameworks delineated from the Board they're basically  
18 given unfettered access to do whatever they want.

19  
20 With that, I would just say I'm glad to  
21 see, like I say, that the RAC is taking an interest in  
22 this. I'd like to see the RAC and the Board further  
23 delineate their delegation so it's a little bit clearer  
24 for what exactly they have control over and how they  
25 implement those closures when it affects subsistence  
26 users.

27  
28 Thank you.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Ivan.  
31 Very well put. Any questions for Ivan.

32  
33 (No comments)

34  
35 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. Is  
36 there anything else on Delegation. Go ahead.

37  
38 MS. STICKWAN: I think we should take  
39 up his suggestion and set criteria if we can today  
40 about his point about them closing fisheries. There  
41 should be a criteria in there that they can't close it  
42 if the State's open. That should be criteria number  
43 one. We should have that in ours and we should make a  
44 motion on it.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I'm not sure,  
47 Gloria, on how we would approach that. I guess we'd  
48 have to take the specific delegation, so it would be a  
49 little hard and we're going to be reviewing them.

50

1 Ricky, you've got a question?

2  
3 MR. GEASE: No. Just a point. I think  
4 one of the concepts for Delegation of Authority is  
5 conservation. I mean we can ask that conservation  
6 purpose for a closure or opening be clearly  
7 articulated. Maybe there's a report to the Chair that  
8 then could be passed out to the other Council members  
9 in terms of, hey, for XYZ conservation reason this  
10 action through the Delegation of Authority was taken.

11  
12 I think that's where some of the issues  
13 come from, is how people consider conservation, what is  
14 a conservation issue, how it's implemented. I think  
15 different in-season managers might have a different  
16 view of conservation like Tom was saying. I do think  
17 this is an issue that different agencies have different  
18 perspectives of conservation.

19  
20 Last time we talked about the new Fish  
21 and Wildlife regs with the NPS regs in terms of having  
22 active or passive management. Typically when we look  
23 at in-season management it's for active management  
24 looking at in-season data. You know, if we veer from  
25 that, then I think we're going to have more concerns  
26 going through time.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I think, Ricky,  
29 that's well taken, your point, but I think that's part  
30 of the problem because it's a perception of the  
31 conservation concern in our area specifically. You  
32 know it as well as I do that when escapement goals are  
33 met and the reds are way overescaped and the king goal  
34 is met and then it's still been shut down for  
35 conservation pretty early, that's where we get in the  
36 bind. So it has to be clearly something to trigger  
37 that conservation concern other than that. You know,  
38 that, oh man, the sky is falling, you know.

39  
40 Anyway, very good. I think, Gloria,  
41 rather than belabor too much, I think we're going to  
42 have to take them individually as they come. Is that  
43 correct, Donald?

44  
45 Go ahead, Judy.

46  
47 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
48 know in the past, Tom, you've provided to us an example  
49 of an actual letter of Delegation of Authority. So

50

1 that might be helpful certainly for new people to have  
2 and I guess for us to look over a little more closely  
3 based on what Gloria just said. Obviously the  
4 Delegation of Authority has to provide a preference for  
5 subsistence uses and users. And we can read that  
6 letter with that in mind and we might have some  
7 suggestions for modifications which could be sent to  
8 the Board.

9  
10 MR. EVANS: Yeah, we can provide a  
11 sample letter. Now each Delegation of Authority, of  
12 course, is different and unique to the situation at  
13 hand, so just keep that in mind, but we can certainly  
14 provide a recent Delegation of Authority letter for  
15 people to review and get an idea of what's in it and  
16 how it's worded.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: And if they're  
19 different, Tom, specific for areas, you could do that  
20 too, provide the different ones if there is a different  
21 type. Are they generic?

22  
23 MR. EVANS: They're generally the same,  
24 but the conditions of what we're asked, like whether  
25 the Federal subsistence land manager has ability to  
26 open and close, change those seasons end of season,  
27 maybe require different sex restrictions, you know,  
28 like the take of females or males. So it can vary a  
29 little bit within the specifics of it, but the general  
30 letter is pretty standardized now.

31  
32 That was one of the things we were  
33 trying to do over the last couple years was try to get  
34 all those together and make them all similar so they  
35 didn't look different between different Delegation of  
36 Authorities between the different agencies.  
37 general letter is pretty standard

38  
39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. You get as  
40 close as possible and accurate, that would be good.

41  
42 Thank you.

43  
44 So I think we're going to take them up  
45 specifically as they come before us and we'll have the  
46 review as we pass the motion. If that's good with the  
47 Council, we'll move on from Delegation of Authority and  
48 move on to our next item of business.



1 We'll take about a five-minute break  
2 and get some coffee and whatever you need.

3  
4 Thank you.

5  
6 (Off record)

7  
8 (On record)

9  
10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We just  
11 had a short break. We're back in session here. The  
12 next item of business is we added C under old business  
13 and we're going to get a fisheries update from Donald  
14 here.

15  
16 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. At  
17 the Board meeting in January 2017, the Board addressed  
18 fisheries proposals and they addressed the Kenai  
19 proposals from Ninilchik Traditional Council regarding  
20 gillnet at Moose Range Meadows. The Board took action  
21 on elements of the 2017 fisheries proposals for the  
22 Kenai River subsistence gillnet fishery.

23  
24 The Board approved a strategy to move  
25 forward and direct the Staff to draft a proposed rule.

26  
27  
28 So the fisheries proposals. The  
29 10-fathom gillnet length, single gillnet permitted and  
30 fisheries may take place in Moose Range Meadows. Those  
31 were part of the proposals and they are already in  
32 regulation.

33  
34 As far as the FP17-10, fisheries dates  
35 July 1 to August 15th and September 10th to September  
36 30, those were moved forward as part of the action  
37 taken by the Board. And require reporting date of  
38 catch within 17 hours, remove operation plan  
39 requirement, live release of all rainbow trout and  
40 Dolly Varden, salmon taken in the gillnet fishery  
41 include as part of the dipnet/rod and reel fishery  
42 annual household limits only. FP17-10 there will be a  
43 permit stipulation, the collection of all samples from  
44 all harvest of chinook salmon for genetic testing.

45  
46 Another permit stipulation, Anchor  
47 Point and buoy, the buoy may be any color but red.

48  
49 For FP17-08, eliminate annual total  
50

1 harvest limit for late run chinook salmon.

2

3 The rest of the elements of the  
4 agreement in principal will take special action first  
5 then rulemaking. The special action to eliminate total  
6 harvest limit for sockeye, coho and pink salmon.

7

8 A special action for early run chinook  
9 season July 1 to July 15th, harvest and counter limit,  
10 closure until July 16th once limit is met.

11

12 Special action to establish late run  
13 chinook harvest limit associated with time period July  
14 16th through August 15th.

15

16 And closure of gillnet fishery until  
17 September 10th if limit is reached.

18

19 And special action to establish  
20 specific limits and select time periods for chinook  
21 salmon harvest. That will be special action.

22

23 Another special action to establish  
24 early run chinook salmon household limits.

25

26 And another special action the resident  
27 fishing limits 100 rainbow, 150 Dolly Varden, closure  
28 of fishery for season if limits reach retention of fish  
29 that die in net.

30

31 And a special action, retention of all  
32 incidental mortalities regardless of species or length.  
33 The retention counts toward encounter and harvest  
34 totals for specific species.

35

36 The special action to retention of  
37 chinook salmon, less than 20 inches in length, which  
38 does not count towards encounter of harvest totals.

39

40 Finally, another special action.  
41 Federal subsistence regulations adopted State seasonal  
42 harvest bank closures will not apply to gillnet  
43 fisheries.

44

45 All these special actions that were  
46 stated will require some rulemaking along the timeline.  
47 The rulemaking will probably occur late in 2017.

48

49 The Fish and Wildlife Service action to

50

1 allow public easement access to bank in Moose Range  
2 Meadows, that will take a Fish and Wildlife Service  
3 action and a corrective action/rulemaking.

4  
5 I have fisheries staff if you have any  
6 technical questions on the agreement in principal. On  
7 a timeline where we briefed the Southcentral RAC on the  
8 Board strategy to address the gillnet regulations and  
9 then followed by special action request by Fish and  
10 Wildlife Service OSM and our staff will conduct an  
11 analysis on and conduct a public hearing in Kenai and  
12 then followed by or prior to the public hearing we'll  
13 have a tribal consultation, which is currently  
14 scheduled for February 17th.

15  
16 Any questions for I or Staff.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That was a whole  
19 lot, Donald, but a very good report. I could sum it up  
20 in a couple words. Is there any questions of the RAC.

21  
22 Ricky, go ahead.

23  
24 MR. GEASE: Donald, could we get copies  
25 of what you were reading off of. I appreciate the  
26 information, but it would be nice to have it as a  
27 handout.

28  
29 MR. MIKE: Yes. I'll provide copies at  
30 lunch.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Dan.

33  
34 MR. STEVENS: I just want to know,  
35 Donald, was there -- I heard 10 fathoms. That's the  
36 length. Is there a depth? Do you have a certain depth  
37 that it's got to go to?

38  
39 MR. MIKE: The depth is -- what's the  
40 depth, Ivan? 30 mesh deep or 20 mesh deep? I can't  
41 recall.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I believe it's  
44 45 mesh. There's really no depth limit on it. I think  
45 it was 45. 10 fathom, 45 mesh, am I correct?

46  
47 MR. I. ENCELEWSKI: I don't believe  
48 there is a depth.

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I don't  
2 believe there is.

3  
4 MR. STEVENS: I was just curious. Just  
5 wondering if there was a way that they could slide  
6 underneath the net for escapement and stuff.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We don't want any  
9 to escape.

10  
11 MR. STEVENS: Excuse me then.

12  
13 MS. HARDIN: Mr. Chair. Jennifer  
14 Hardin, for the record. I'm the Acting Fisheries  
15 Division Chief at OSM. I just wanted to make one  
16 correction for the record that at the Board meeting,  
17 the Federal Subsistence Board, Donald mentioned FP17-  
18 08. Actually that proposal was withdrawn by the  
19 proponent and the item that Donald mentioned that was  
20 attached to FP17-08 originally is being addressed  
21 through the Fisheries Special Action 17-01.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Great  
24 clarification, Jennifer. Thank you. Yeah, that's what  
25 transpired. Basically they came to an agreement is  
26 what it amounts to and they've got to go through the  
27 special action this year until the rulemaking is done  
28 and they came to an agreement with what Donald has  
29 read, as he outlined. So they're going to proceed with  
30 the special action and then they'll do the rulemaking  
31 to become the regulations, which we already have the  
32 fishery.

33  
34 Did I sum it up pretty good -- okay,  
35 thank you.

36  
37 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. And then I  
38 guess just the last part is that this is basically what  
39 the RAC supported at our last meeting. So the RAC  
40 would be support of this special action as well.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Do you want to  
43 make a motion to that?

44  
45 MS. CAMINER: Yeah, I guess. I think  
46 it would be important that we -- I would like to make a  
47 motion to support this special action as read by Donald  
48 but modified by Jennifer in terms of that one  
49 clarification from 08.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Is there a  
2 second to that.

3  
4 MR. OPHEIM: I'll second.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Discussion. Go  
7 ahead, Ricky.

8  
9 MR. GEASE: So just for clarification,  
10 where are we in the RFR process? I mean can you and I  
11 participate in that or is this separate from that or  
12 what's the deal in this now.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I'm probably not  
15 the right person to answer that, but it is separate  
16 from this and it's ongoing and they did accept some  
17 that they're going to look at, so it's going on.

18  
19 Am I correct, Jennifer?

20  
21  
22 MS. HARDIN: Through the Chair, Mr.  
23 Gease. The request for reconsideration process is  
24 ongoing and there are certain claims that were  
25 identified as potentially requiring additional analysis  
26 and that analysis will proceed after we've completed  
27 these other steps in the process. We don't have a  
28 timeline for that at the moment.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I've got a  
31 motion and a second to support the special action and  
32 as clarified by Jennifer and Donald's report. Is there  
33 any other discussion.

34  
35 (No comments)

36  
37 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing none.  
38 All in favor aye.

39  
40 IN UNISON: Aye.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.

43  
44 (No opposing votes)

45  
46 MR. GEASE: Respectfully I'm going to  
47 abstain just like last time because it's an ongoing  
48 legal process with no timeline or end in sight that I  
49 know of. So I will abstain on this one.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Ricky.  
2 One abstention.

3  
4 MR. HOLSTEN: Mr. Chair. I'll have to  
5 abstain too. I'm just not that familiar with that  
6 issue since I wasn't in that last meeting.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank you,  
9 Ed.

10  
11 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. So just in  
12 terms of RAC representation, if you will, at that  
13 meeting, are you intending to go or do you want one of  
14 us to try to call in or several of us to call in?

15  
16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I think we had  
17 two abstentions, the rest in favor. I think the motion  
18 carries. So let me clarify that.

19  
20 Judy's question to me was if I was  
21 going to go to the special action. I was trying to  
22 send Ivan to that, but he's got another meeting, to  
23 represent me. Anyway, I'm going to try to make it.  
24 It's a 5:00 to 7:00. I think anyone that can call or  
25 support it would be good.

26  
27 Basically, Ed, and we'll try to get you  
28 up to speed, it's the exact same as the one last year.  
29 Basically they have to have the special action until  
30 they approve the process so to speak. So that's what  
31 it's for. I might have simplified it, but it's pretty  
32 much right there. Well, it's not quite the same  
33 because it's all that stuff in there.

34  
35 MS. HARDIN: Mr. Chair. That's right,  
36 OSM will be there to gather public testimony on the  
37 special action request that's been submitted jointly by  
38 Fish and Wildlife Service and Ninilchik Traditional  
39 Council. So we'll be looking for public testimony on  
40 any and all of the elements that are encompassed in  
41 that one special action request.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Does that answer  
44 your question? Go ahead, Ricky.

45  
46 MR. GEASE: Donald, can you clarify  
47 where the meeting is, when it is and then the  
48 teleconference that's going to be available at the  
49 Board of Fisheries, please.

50

1 MR. MIKE: Yes, Mr. Chair, Mr. Gease.  
2 The public hearing for the Fisheries Special Action 17-  
3 01 will occur in Kenai at the Kenai Visitor's Center  
4 and we will have teleconference availability for the  
5 public that wish to testify that are attending the  
6 Board of Fish meeting here in Anchorage. Details are  
7 currently being worked out and once we have a venue for  
8 folks to participate via teleconference we will have  
9 that available.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Donald, just for  
12 clarification, when you said Kenai Visitor's Center,  
13 you're talking the Wildlife Visitor's Center in  
14 Soldotna, correct?

15  
16 MR. MIKE: That's correct. The Kenai  
17 National Wildlife Visitor's Center. Thanks for the  
18 clarification.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, because  
21 there's a Kenai Visitor's Center too. So if you guys  
22 are over there, you testify there, the other ones come  
23 the other way.

24  
25 (Laughter)

26  
27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. Go  
28 ahead, Jennifer.

29  
30 MS. HARDIN: Mr. Chair. If I just  
31 might note for the record that on the table there are  
32 copies of the news release with information on the  
33 venue for the public hearing as well as the call-in  
34 number.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank you.

37  
38 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. This is the time  
39 where we accept wildlife proposals, but currently we  
40 are not -- the Federal Register to announce the call  
41 for wildlife proposals has not been published yet. For  
42 the record, this Council can discuss potential wildlife  
43 proposals on record and we can have Staff make note of  
44 those wildlife proposals. When the Federal Register  
45 announces the call for wildlife proposals, we can draft  
46 those proposals for the Council. Mr. Tom Evans has  
47 more information for the Council.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Tom, I'm  
50

1 going to let you get carry -- or go ahead and explain  
2 it to us.

3

4 MR. EVANS: Get carried away, huh?

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 MR. EVANS: This is Tom Evans. Again,  
9 I'm a wildlife biologist for the Office of Subsistence  
10 Management. Information on how to submit a wildlife  
11 regulatory proposal can be found on Page 15 of your  
12 book.

13

14 As Donald mentioned, typically we would  
15 have opening period that typically goes from January  
16 15th to like the end of March, b but this is not a  
17 typical year, so the call for proposals hasn't been  
18 administratively approved yet. But you can at this  
19 time work on a proposal at the meeting here, take  
20 action on it as to what you want to do. Again, the  
21 Staff can help you draft it if necessary and be ready  
22 to go so when the call for proposals does come out,  
23 then it can be submitted. That goes the same for  
24 anyone else who would like to submit a proposal.

25

26 The Board typically considers proposals  
27 to change Federal hunting and trapping seasons, harvest  
28 limits, methods of harvest,  
29 customary and traditional use determinations on Federal  
30 public lands. The Federal public lands include  
31 National Wildlife Refuges, National Parks, Monuments  
32 and Preserves, National Forests, National Wild and  
33 Scenic Rivers and Bureau of Land Management areas that  
34 are not part of the National Conservation system.

35

36 Federal regulations do not apply to the  
37 State of Alaska lands, private lands or military lands,  
38 Native allotments or selected Federal lands by the  
39 State or Native corporations.

40

41 I already mentioned that Councils can  
42 choose to work with OSM Staff to develop the proposals.  
43 Since this is your normal meeting time, recommend if  
44 you have any proposals, that you develop them now and  
45 then we'll submit them when the call for proposals gets  
46 finalized.

47

48 The information you include in the  
49 proposals most of you are pretty familiar with this.

50



1 Your name, organization, the regulation you wish to  
2 change, the regulation as you would like to see it  
3 written, an explanation as to why the regulatory change  
4 should be made, a description of the impact the change  
5 would have on wildlife populations as well as maybe  
6 subsistence users and a description on the effect on  
7 other uses maybe such as sport or recreational  
8 commercial uses.

9  
10 When the call becomes finalized,  
11 proposals can be submitted by mail or hand delivery to  
12 OSM, they can be submitted at the RAC meetings or they  
13 can be submitted on the web Federal rulemaking portal.  
14 They cannot be submitted by email, so just something to  
15 be aware of.

16  
17 That's all I had. Thank you.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any questions for  
20 Tom. This starts on 15 there in your booklet. If you  
21 have any questions, ask now and then we'll move on.

22  
23 (No comments)

24  
25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thanks, Tom. I  
26 think you did good there.

27  
28 Okay. Does anyone have a wildlife  
29 proposal that they want to bring up at the Council  
30 level here for submittal at this time?

31  
32 Go ahead, Ricky.

33  
34 MR. GEASE: Just at our fall meeting we  
35 had, I think, a pretty thorough discussion about the  
36 new Fish and Wildlife and NPS regulations that went  
37 into effect that were not supposed to  
38 impact subsistence harvest. Are we clear that it did  
39 not impact subsistence methods, means, tools in the  
40 toolbox for subsistence management for the things that  
41 were taken off the table for nonrural non-qualified  
42 hunts on Refuges and National Park Service lands?

43  
44 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It's a good  
45 question. Who would like to explain that. Did we  
46 create any problems that we might have encountered from  
47 that? Do you have anything specific that might have  
48 affected it, Ricky, that you know of?

49  
50

1 MR. GEASE: Well, there were changes in  
2 terms of kind of going from active management to more  
3 of a biodiversity, more passive management. There were  
4 things restricted. Brown bear baiting, you couldn't do  
5 that. I mean are there areas on wildlife Refuges now  
6 that are open just for subsistence brown bear baiting?  
7 There was a couple other changes. I'm just curious as  
8 to whether or not -- we were told that these  
9 restrictions wouldn't be put in place for subsistence  
10 users, but I just wonder if there needs to be more  
11 explicit action taken by the RAC to ensure that.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: To my knowledge,  
14 and I know from the brown bear and talking with Andy, I  
15 don't think it's affected the subsistence user on the  
16 Kenai from what I was told. I would be very  
17 disappointed if I come up and found something in there,  
18 so it's a good point. It's a great point. I don't  
19 know of anything that's affecting us. If they arrest  
20 us, then we'll know, I guess. I don't want to go that  
21 route if we don't have to. Yeah, that did change some  
22 of that.

23  
24 Do you know of anything, Donald? Andy,  
25 is he on the phone?

26  
27 MR. MIKE: I don't know, but that would  
28 be a question for the Refuge Manager, Andy Loranger,  
29 how it affects the other users besides subsistence. I  
30 don't know if Mr. Loranger is online.

31  
32 MR. MILLER: This is Steve Miller from  
33 Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. I'm the Deputy Refuge  
34 Manager. Could you repeat the question. I'll try to  
35 answer it. Andy is in another meeting right now.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Steve.  
38 Rick Gease is going to give you the question here and  
39 we'll try to get an answer.

40  
41 Thank you.

42  
43 MR. GEASE: There were new regulations  
44 that were passed from the Fish and Wildlife Service and  
45 the National Park Service as it has to do with not just  
46 the Kenai National Wildlife Refuges, but with all  
47 Wildlife Refuges across Alaska. I was just curious to  
48 know if there were any restrictions put in place on the  
49 Federal subsistence users.

50

1 MR. MILLER: I'll give you the general  
2 answer. The general answer would be no, but I think  
3 what the RAC would be wise to do is to go and make sure  
4 that they have subsistence regulations in place that  
5 would allow that to occur. So what it did was prohibit  
6 the baiting of brown bear through sport hunting  
7 regulations. If the subsistence community does not  
8 have a parallel rule to allow that, then it would be  
9 prohibited under sport hunting regulations, but it  
10 would not be prohibited under your subsistence  
11 regulation.

12  
13 But I could not tell you how that  
14 applies statewide. You would just have to go through  
15 and make sure that there's a specific subsistence  
16 regulation that would allow that harvest to occur.

17  
18 MR. GEASE: So I was curious because  
19 there were two points. One, there were specific tools,  
20 for example like the ban on brown bear baiting, so  
21 would it be accurate to say unless there is something  
22 in subsistence regulations that explicitly authorizes  
23 brown bear baiting in hunts that we would not be able  
24 to follow it because a lot of times there's matching  
25 regulations. So that's point one.

26  
27 Point two was there was kind of  
28 philosophical stuff and we just had another  
29 conversation today about one person to another person  
30 depending on the area manager and those definitions  
31 changed and will there be trickle-down impacts to  
32 harvestable surpluses of different animals within the  
33 wildlife since we're on the wildlife cycle now.

34  
35 Are we going to have consistency in  
36 harvestable surpluses -- do you see a change in the  
37 harvestable surplus for deer, moose, wolverines,  
38 wolves, bears, how we're calculating the harvestable  
39 surplus that would indirectly impact what's available  
40 to hunt?

41  
42 MR. MILLER: I have not heard any  
43 discussions whatsoever in any way that that would  
44 impact subsistence users. Again, that might trickle  
45 town and impact sport hunting users, but I think the  
46 subsistence users would be the least likely to ever be  
47 impacted by that. Quite frankly, I haven't heard of  
48 any discussions at this point looking at harvestable  
49 surplus.

50

1 MR. GEASE: My point being is that  
2 there's a difference between an active management in-  
3 season management for harvestable surpluses and the new  
4 regulations that went into effect expanded the  
5 definition I think on the side of conservation. If a  
6 State sport hunt is closed, that is justification for  
7 an area manager to close a subsistence hunt.

8  
9 So are the calculations -- we said it  
10 would not impact subsistence users. Are the  
11 calculations for a harvestable surplus going to change  
12 within any of the agencies? It's an important question  
13 and it really wasn't clarified. This RAC took a  
14 position that we did not approve or support the  
15 conditions of changing how we calculated harvestable  
16 surpluses I believe when we opposed that. Those  
17 regulations did go into effect though.

18  
19 So the question is are there going to  
20 be changes in how we calculate harvestable surpluses  
21 for game management?

22  
23 MR. MILLER: I don't think that the  
24 manager at Kenai could say how it's going to impact it  
25 statewide, but for Kenai, no, I see nothing going  
26 forward that would impact it on the game side because  
27 our first effort would be to restrict the sport hunting  
28 harvest before we have any impacts whatsoever on  
29 subsistence. But as far as is this going to apply  
30 statewide, I don't know because right now we only have  
31 in-season management authority for -- I think moose is  
32 pretty much the only game that the Refuge Manager has  
33 in-season management authority for here.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Steve. It  
36 sounds like we're good to subsist on the Kenai.

37  
38 MR. MILLER: (Laughs)

39  
40 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: So we appreciate  
41 that. But I think Ricky's question is very important  
42 that, you know, that could change the perception of how  
43 it's managed from the in-season manager if it's more of  
44 a change. But I like the idea that the subsistence has  
45 the preference and it shouldn't change. So if there's  
46 something that comes up, we need to be notified. If we  
47 could be notified well in advance, it would be good.

48  
49 MR. MILLER: Yeah. I'm pretty sure  
50

1 that Andy will be -- you'll be one of the first calls  
2 that he would make if he perceives that happening on  
3 the Kenai.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I'm sure he will.  
6 Okay. Does anyone have a wildlife proposal that you  
7 want to introduce here? I don't think we have any.

8  
9 (No comments)

10  
11 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I know we don't  
12 have any. We're going to go ahead and consider the  
13 call for wildlife proposals complete.

14  
15 We need to move on now to review and  
16 approve our Fiscal Year 2016 annual report. I'll let  
17 Judy, since she was secretary at that time, talk to it  
18 and see if we need any additions or corrections, I  
19 guess.

20  
21 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
22 What we do during our meetings is kind of keep track of  
23 issues that we may want to bring up to the Board  
24 specific concerns we have. For example, in the past  
25 we've written about delegation of authority, as you can  
26 probably tell from our earlier discussion.

27  
28 At our last meeting we had these seven  
29 topics that we wanted to bring to the attention of the  
30 Board. So this is the letter that Donald pulled  
31 together from all of our discussions. If you'll have a  
32 chance to read this over quickly, particularly for the  
33 folks who were here before, but the new people you may  
34 have some perspectives on some of these suggestions  
35 too.

36  
37 I don't know if you've been able to  
38 send Diane a copy or not, Donald.

39  
40 MS. SELANOFF: I do have a copy in  
41 front of me, Donald.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Donald.

44  
45 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The  
46 2016 annual report was drafted from our last meeting.  
47 There are a few comments from the RAC members that are  
48 not included, but they will be included after this is  
49 approved.

50

1 For your information, one thing I  
2 forgot to mention on item number two, Cook Inlet  
3 fisheries regulations. The Council at its fall meeting  
4 requested a workgroup be convened to address Federal  
5 subsistence regulations and see if -- review all the  
6 regulations on the Federal side and see if the Council  
7 can provide recommendations to streamline it.

8  
9 During my presentation on the Kenai  
10 subsistence community gillnet regulatory timeline I  
11 forgot to mention that OSM and Staff will draft and  
12 conduct analysis for a Kenai subsistence gillnet  
13 regulatory and see if they can come up with some new  
14 language. The Council can choose to keep it. So Cook  
15 Inlet fishery regulations is in the annual report. For  
16 OSM and our Staff, I think we will work with the  
17 Council and see if anybody wants to participate, but  
18 that's something for you to think about.

19  
20 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,  
23 Donald. Yeah, that's a good point. They are going to  
24 work on trying to streamline it and all that and make  
25 them work together.

26  
27 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. What Donald  
28 was mentioning is kind of at the top of Page 2, this  
29 idea of a work group. Just one short small correction  
30 or addition I'd like to see is why don't we say State  
31 and Federal fisheries biologists are going to be  
32 working on it. It is an interagency program, so it  
33 would be good to have as many folks represented as  
34 needed who can provide the expertise.

35  
36 Other issues that we're bringing up  
37 once again to the Board. As you can see, number three,  
38 Delegation of Authority. So we can't update this based  
39 on this morning's discussion, but just so you know  
40 what's been said before. Sterling Highway improvement,  
41 Ricky gave a report earlier and this is reflected here.

42  
43  
44 We've also talked several times in the  
45 past trying to keep the idea of climate change in  
46 front of the Board so they can -- of course they're  
47 aware of it, but keep that in mind.

48  
49 And as Gloria mentioned earlier too,  
50

1 last meeting we did have a concern about the Klutina  
2 and Gulkana and the chinook populations. We also  
3 brought up the idea of the subsistence community hunt  
4 from Unit 13.

5  
6 The other item that we've talked about  
7 many times and I'm hoping we'll get an update on it  
8 later is the nonrural policy implementation. This  
9 program provides subsistence opportunities to rural  
10 Alaskans and the Board has been working the last few  
11 years on regulations as how to determine kind of who's  
12 nonrural. So that's what that first point is about.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thanks, Judy.  
15 Rick, you've got a question.

16  
17 MR. GEASE: Yeah, I'd just like to  
18 point out in number five, salmon biology and ocean  
19 acidification. A lot of times when we talk about ocean  
20 acidification we assume that it's with climate change  
21 and I would like to point out another vector that might  
22 be acid rain coming from industrial countries in Korea  
23 and China where members of the population are walking  
24 around with masks and breathing apparatus so that they  
25 can breathe.

26  
27 I grew up in the midwest in the '60s  
28 and '70s when acid rain was a big issue where the  
29 particulate from coal-powered plants in the midwest  
30 were moving in a northeast fashion and greatly  
31 contributed to the acidification of lakes and impacted  
32 a wide variety of biological life and ecosystems in the  
33 Atlantic northeast there. This country took actions  
34 through the Clean Air Act.

35  
36 When you talk about global climate  
37 change, it's kind of global perspectives and we have  
38 one vector with carbon dioxide. However, I think if we  
39 just say global climate change and not offer the  
40 possibility to open up the concept of acid rain coming  
41 from the very industrial countries in Eastern Asia, I  
42 think we do disservice to our fisheries in both the  
43 Bering Sea and the Gulf of Alaska.

44  
45 It would be nice to start asking NOAA  
46 and other entities managing these fisheries to include  
47 in their basic research somehow to look at weather  
48 patterns and transport patterns coming from East Asia  
49 so when the State Department or other government  
50

1 entities talk with China, Korea, et cetera, that this  
2 is on  
3 the table as an issue.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That's a good  
6 point, Ricky. I know you brought that up last time.  
7 We talked and discussed it. It just didn't get in the  
8 report.

9  
10 MR. GEASE: Exactly.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: But it should be  
13 in there. So we'll make that correction. Does that  
14 sound good with everyone?

15  
16 (Council nods affirmatively)

17  
18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Go ahead,  
19 Gloria.

20  
21 MS. STICKWAN: I just want to say it  
22 again that we have a concern about the Copper River  
23 fisheries and we could add that to the letter. There's  
24 a decline in king salmon and we're very concerned about  
25 that. We hope they'll protect subsistence and that  
26 would be a priority for us.

27  
28 I still want to talk about that  
29 Delegation of Authority. It seems to me like we should  
30 be able to comment on the process and I would like to  
31 see a consistency between the Federal agencies and how  
32 they make decisions regarding Delegation of Authority.  
33 Some people have different philosophies, as Tom  
34 Carpenter was saying. That shouldn't be a part of it.  
35 It should be subsistence priority first.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Good  
38 points. Gloria has asked to clarify a few things on  
39 the Delegation of Authorities and also to add in on the  
40 Copper River decline into the annual report so we could  
41 do both those.

42  
43 Is there any others that we need to  
44 address here?

45  
46 (No comments)

47  
48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. That said,  
49 do we need a motion for these?

50



1 MR. CARPENTER: Mr. Chairman. I move  
2 we approve the FY2016 Annual Report as modified.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. It's been  
5 moved to approve the report as modified.

6  
7 MR. GEASE: Second.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Seconded by  
10 Ricky.

11  
12 (No comments)

13  
14 MR. CARPENTER: Question.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: The question has  
17 been called for. All in favor aye.

18  
19 IN UNISON: Aye.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.

22  
23 (No opposing votes)

24  
25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: So carries. It  
26 will be modified to include your concerns and  
27 additions. Thank you. Next item U.S. Fish and  
28 Wildlife Service, Alaska Native Relations Policy.  
29 Crystal. Is Crystal here?

30  
31 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. Crystal  
32 Leonetti, the liaison for the Fish and Wildlife  
33 Service, was unable to be present to present this  
34 Native Relations Policy to the Council, but she would  
35 like for this Council to review it and share it with  
36 the public. Comments are due by April 12th.

37  
38 I'll just read the talking points, what  
39 Ms. Leonetti provided for me for the Council's  
40 reference. The policy was signed in January of 2016  
41 and applies across the nation and specific to our  
42 relationship with Federally recognized tribes.

43  
44 The second document is a draft of the  
45 companion policy for Alaska. It is titled the U.S.  
46 Fish and Wildlife Service Alaska Native Relations  
47 Policy. The two documents are meant to be used side by  
48 side. It is difficult to define terms and gain full  
49 context of the Draft Alaska Policy without the Native  
50

1 American Policy and thereby for reference.

2

3 So in front of you there's two  
4 documents. Chapter 2, Alaska Native Relations Policy  
5 and the Native American Policy dated January 20, 2016.  
6 There are tools that are needed in Alaska specific  
7 policy as a companion to the Native American Policy.  
8 One reason is because of subsistence. Subsistence is a  
9 provision in the Alaska National Interest Lands  
10 Conservation Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act,  
11 in the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Endangered Species  
12 Act. Through the access specific to Alaska Native  
13 Peoples and therefore we had a need to describe  
14 responsibilities to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
15 employees under them.

16

17 The second reason is because we are  
18 directed by law to work with Native entities in  
19 additional to working with the tribal governments.  
20 There became a need to describe our relationship with  
21 Alaska Native organizations and to Alaska Native Claims  
22 Settlement Act corporations.

23

24 Examples of Alaska Native organizations  
25 include Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council,  
26 the Eskimo Walrus Commission, the regional Native non-  
27 profits like Tanana Chiefs Conference and Association  
28 of Village Council Presidents.

29

30 The Draft Alaska Native Relations  
31 Policy gives guidance to our employees for their  
32 responsibilities and opportunities for relationships to  
33 tribes, Alaska Native organizations and Alaska Native  
34 corporations.

35

36 The sections directly corresponds to  
37 the Native American Policy including an introduction in  
38 the following sections. Section two, sovereignty and  
39 government-to-government relations. Section three,  
40 communication and relationships. Section four,  
41 resource management. Section five, cultural/religion.  
42 Section six, law enforcement. Section seven, tribal  
43 capacity building, assistance and funding. Section  
44 eight, implementation and monitoring. Section nine,  
45 scope and limitations. There are exhibits 1, 2 and 3,  
46 definitions, overall responsibilities and authorities.

47

48 This Draft Alaska Native Relations  
49 Policy was developed over the last year with a team of

50

1 culturally and geographically balanced tribal and  
2 Alaska Native corporation representatives. It is now  
3 open for public review and we are providing it to the  
4 Regional Advisory Council as a courtesy.

5  
6 The tribal and Alaska Native  
7 corporation consultation phase will be occurring during  
8 approximately the same timeframe of the public review.  
9 The deadline for comments is April 12th, 2017.  
10 Comments may be submitted to Ms. Joanne Bryant or Ms.  
11 Crystal Leonetti. I provided contact information,  
12 which is in the goldenrod paper. You may also give  
13 your feedback now or we can take notes.

14  
15 We are not asking for Regional Advisory  
16 Council action. This is to provide you with  
17 information and encourage subsistence hunters and  
18 fishers to read it and provide us with any comments  
19 they may have. She states thank you for your time.

20  
21 That concludes my presentation, Mr.  
22 Chair.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,  
25 Donald. There's a lot there. We're missing a few  
26 Council Members that did not get the packet. Gloria  
27 didn't get one. Michael didn't get one. Ricky didn't  
28 get one and Tom didn't get one. So we're a little  
29 short-handed and there's a lot of stuff to review and  
30 to comment on in there. It's a couple policies and  
31 they're a little different than the tribal  
32 consultation. Here's an extra one here. Oh, now we're  
33 sorting them out. Here you go, Tom. One for Michael  
34 and then I think we've got it.

35  
36 Okay. As Donald said -- go ahead,  
37 Gloria.

38  
39 MS. STICKWAN: I just want to add where  
40 they said all the Walrus Acts and the other thing, I  
41 want to add in that part the MOA between the DOI and  
42 the Ahtna AITRC be added into this document upon  
43 approval by the Secretary of Interior, if it is  
44 approved, that it be added to this document.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. There's  
47 one comment we could take, Donald, right there that we  
48 would request it be added to that document for Ahtna if  
49 it's approved. I realize the Council hasn't had a  
50

1 chance to review this or study it. It's going to take  
2 some time for comments. So I'm assuming that we could  
3 send written comments to Donald or whatever. I know  
4 we're going to need to review it at our nation.

5  
6 MS. STICKWAN: Can we ask for changes  
7 that were recently made? Do you know of any recent  
8 changes that were made to this document because it's  
9 been online for a while? Has there been any recent  
10 changes?

11  
12 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. I am not part of  
13 this group that developed this policy. The person to  
14 ask that would be Ms. Crystal Leonetti or Joanne  
15 Bryant. We don't have any staff here to answer that  
16 question directly, but I can give you that information  
17 once I find out.

18  
19 MS. STICKWAN: Did you say there's a  
20 deadline on this?

21  
22 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. The public  
23 comments are due by April 12th, 2017 and you can send  
24 comments to Crystal Leonetti or Joanne Bryant or we can  
25 take notes here if you have any particular comments you  
26 want to provide. The contact information is in the  
27 goldenrod paper that I provided for the Council.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Donald, if you  
30 would, it was requested here if you get any comments  
31 prior to this closing of comment period that the RAC  
32 might be interested and if you'd send them to us. We  
33 may comment on your comments.

34  
35 MR. MIKE: Right.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Judy.

38  
39 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. A couple  
40 thoughts, Donald. I'm sure the RAC will want updates  
41 on this process. I guess my assumption is this is  
42 different from consultation process. It also would be  
43 interesting at a future meeting to know if other  
44 agencies have similar kinds of policies or draft  
45 policies, agencies that we work with.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Does this fit  
48 under the new administration? You've got to get rid of  
49 two for every one you approve? If so, you can throw  
50

1 these two out and we'll be okay.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Donald, you can  
6 see we're kind of at a little bit of a pause here  
7 because it's a lot of information for us to comment on,  
8 so I'm suggesting that the board take a minute to read  
9 them and we can make our comments to Donald or to  
10 Crystal directly, not to Donald, and then we'll go from  
11 there. Okay?

12

13 MR. MIKE: Okay, Mr. Chair. That's  
14 fine with me.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Is that okay with  
17 the rest of the Council? That's good. Okay.

18

19 At this time I have about quarter to  
20 12:00. We've got -- before we get into the Memorandum  
21 of Agreement between Ahtna, I think that may take a  
22 little bit of time. I was thinking maybe break now for  
23 lunch a little bit early with the understanding the  
24 Council stays for executive session and that we go to  
25 lunch. How long we need for lunch? Where is a close  
26 place for lunch?

27

28 MS. CAMINER: Arctic Roadrunner.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Arctic  
31 Roadrunner, is it good?

32

33 MS. CAMINER: Yeah. Or Peanut Farm.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, we don't  
36 have a lot on this schedule, but with that said, I, as  
37 the Chairman, unless I'm missing something, I think we  
38 could finish up tonight. We do have a 4:30 timeframe,  
39 but I'd like to finish up tonight if anyone wants to go  
40 with their sweethearts or their others. Unless there's  
41 a reason to stay for tomorrow, I mean I think we could  
42 finish this up. So let's plan on coming back at 1:30  
43 and we'll promptly get back to our business and I would  
44 ask that the Council would stay and we'll do our  
45 executive session.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The

50

1 Council go into executive session now and the public  
2 will be requested to leave except for a couple OSM  
3 Staff.

4  
5 Thank you.

6  
7 (Off record)

8  
9 (On record)

10  
11 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, folks, if  
12 we're all ready we're going to go ahead and get started  
13 again. I've got 1:30. We like to be prompt when we  
14 can, but not always. Hope you all had a good lunch. I  
15 hope someone else paid for it too.

16  
17 Anyway, where we are on the agenda  
18 right now we're under item 11, the last one, and that's  
19 the Memorandum of Agreement between Ahtna and the  
20 Department of Interior. So that will be our next item  
21 up for discussion here as soon as Donald -- I didn't  
22 see him in the back. I would have waited for him.  
23 Sorry about that, Donald.

24  
25 We've got Karen and a couple gals are  
26 going to talk to us here. All that information is on  
27 Page 18 in your books.

28  
29 (Pause)

30  
31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: All of you folks  
32 that are going to present here shortly for your agency  
33 reports, if you had a request to be longer than 15  
34 minutes, I haven't seen it. So if you do want one  
35 before then, put it in, please.

36  
37 Go right ahead.

38  
39 MS. LINNELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
40 Members of the Council. My name is Karen Linnell. I'm  
41 the executive director for the Ahtna Intertribal  
42 Resource Commission. We are going to give you a little  
43 bit of history on subsistence and the background to how  
44 the MOA came into existence and why this charter is so  
45 important to that process.

46  
47 So the Ahtna region is roughly about  
48 45,000 square miles or about the size of Ohio. It  
49 includes five mountain ranges, two National Parks and  
50

1 500 miles of the highway and the fourth largest river  
2 in Alaska.

3  
4 This is the land ownership pattern in  
5 the Ahtna traditional territory. The checkerboard  
6 pieces that you see are Ahtna and Chitina Native  
7 Corporation lands. The pink and green are the  
8 Wrangell-St. Elias and Denali Parks. The yellow is BLM  
9 lands.

10  
11 Our Ahtna leaders have been managing  
12 wildlife for some time. We didn't overfish or overhunt.  
13 We had respected traditional hunting areas that were  
14 managed by clan or by families and we have a great  
15 respect for the fish and the wildlife that feed us. My  
16 father used to tell us if we take care of them, they'll  
17 take care of you.

18  
19 We had our own way of regulation and we  
20 have a quote here from one of our elders who is long  
21 gone now. He said the chief would watch what was being  
22 killed and regulate how much something was taken and  
23 that was a way to ensure meat was not wasted. We've  
24 heard this many, many times. Just even recent.

25  
26 I'll give you an example. A few years  
27 back we were getting an unusual amount of chinook in  
28 the wheels. I'm on the north end of the Copper River  
29 and my uncle came to visit me and he said how many fish  
30 you get, you doing good? I said yeah. How many kings  
31 you get? I said, well, I got about six today. How  
32 about yesterday? Eight. He said how about before  
33 that? And I said, oh, five. He said that's enough  
34 now. You shut it off. That was a way to make sure  
35 that that resource will get through for escapement and  
36 be able to come back in the coming years.

37  
38 We find a different philosophy than  
39 what is done with management now where they say, wow,  
40 we have record numbers coming through, let's up the  
41 amount that's allowable on each permit. You know,  
42 that's a whole different philosophy and taking what  
43 they can while they can rather than looking and seeing  
44 what's being able to get by. This applies to how we  
45 hunt and how we feed our families with wildlife as  
46 well.

47  
48 Our leadership had been involved in  
49 negotiations with ANCSA and ANILCA. Roy Ewan was  
50

1 traveling to DC and was part of negotiations then and  
2 one of the things that our elders from Copper River  
3 told him to make sure to ask for was to protect our  
4 subsistence and our hunting and fishing rights.

5  
6 So up until a few days before ANCSA was  
7 signed that protection of that subsistence was in the  
8 bill itself and it was just a few days before that they  
9 pulled it out of the ANCSA bill because they wanted it  
10 to pass and they thought that that was going to be a  
11 negotiation, something that would stop negotiations.

12  
13 At the time, and this is part of the  
14 Congressional Record, we expect that both the Secretary  
15 and the State to take any action necessary to protect  
16 the subsistence needs of Alaska Natives. So this has  
17 been going on since 1971. We know that dual management  
18 isn't working. We continue to lose our opportunity to  
19 hunt and keep our traditional way of life.

20  
21 This is one of the parking lots at  
22 Eureka on opening day of caribou season in August of  
23 2016, this year. I blew this up on my computer and  
24 just scrolled through it real slow. There was 165 rigs  
25 there with two and four-place trailers. And that's  
26 just at one of the parking lots. We have a lot of  
27 impact because of that proximity and being on the  
28 highway.

29  
30 So we're connected to the major  
31 population centers. We have increased hunting pressure  
32 from non-resident hunters and other hunters within the  
33 state and community hunt groups. We have a limited  
34 role in setting regulation even on our own lands, Ahtna  
35 lands. We have 1.7 million acres. Over 600,000 of  
36 those acres are within a National Park boundary. We  
37 can come to the Board of Game or to the Federal  
38 Subsistence Board. We have a few minutes at the Board  
39 of Game to speak just like any individual in the state  
40 of Alaska.

41  
42 So what we proposed was an attempt at a  
43 solution to fix this. Looking at a consensus-based  
44 management with tribes, the State and the Feds working  
45 together across the landscape, meaning regardless of  
46 land ownership, working on wildlife plans that include  
47 healthy ecosystems, healthy populations and that people  
48 have access and the ability to participate and provide  
49 their needs.

50



1                   The Ahtna Intertribal Resource  
2 Commission formed about five years ago now. One of the  
3 quotes from one of our elders, Nick Jack, it says you  
4 have to have a lawyer and a surveyor to go hunting. I  
5 found it interesting just a few days ago when I went to  
6 one of our local advisory committees that our non-  
7 tribal members find the same thing, that -- it is  
8 funny, two of them said it. Well, you have to have a  
9 lawyer to go with you to go out hunting. The other guy  
10 says or a surveyor. I thought wow, they think the same  
11 thing that we do.

12  
13                   We have another quote from Roy Ewan  
14 saying they're regulating us out of our way of life.  
15 So the forming of the tribal conservation district was  
16 our first step in self-determination. Our tribes and  
17 our people have been leading the way in our fight for  
18 subsistence for decades now.

19  
20                   In the picture, the elderly couple in  
21 the right-hand side there next to the children, Pete  
22 and Annie Ewan, they were members of the Copper River  
23 Four. Was it late '70s, early '80s that the State of  
24 Alaska -- there was a fish shortage and the State of  
25 Alaska came and put padlocks on their fishwheels. That  
26 little tiny woman there shot the lock off her fishwheel  
27 and asked the trooper what he was going to do about it.

28  
29                   We feel this is one of the things that  
30 helped to trigger ANILCA. Because of that promise that  
31 hasn't been kept and they said they would provide for  
32 subsistence needs and they turn around and were going  
33 to stop subsistence so that the commercial fishery  
34 could continue to go. So ANILCA came to pass.

35  
36                   What we're looking at or what AITRC is  
37 is we're a partnership of our tribes and our  
38 corporation. We're pretty unique in that arena within  
39 the state. We have all eight of our Federally  
40 recognized tribes and then our landowners Ahtna, Inc.  
41 and Chitina Native Corporation. This is symbolized  
42 here in our own chart.

43  
44                   The circles are the tribes and the  
45 corporations. The square up at the top is an MOA that  
46 we have with the Department of Agriculture and with the  
47 Department of Interior now. Down below we have our  
48 programs. We're looking at wildlife and fisheries  
49 management and that type of thing.

50

1                   So where do we get our authority.  
2   Well, we get our authority from our eight tribes. They  
3   provide the tribal sovereignty. And then we have our  
4   two ANCSA corporations. They're the landowners.

5  
6                   We also have an MOA with the Kenny Lake  
7   Soil and Water Conservation District or now they've  
8   expanded their area. They're the Copper Valley Soil  
9   and Water Conservation District. They're a State  
10   entity that services their collaborators within the  
11   Copper River Basin. We have an MOA with Copper River  
12   Native Association, which is a regional non-profit that  
13   provides health and wellness programs.

14  
15                  We've been actively working on habitat  
16   projects and looking at biomass and capacity building  
17   for our organization. We were formed to be the  
18   regional coordinating body for subsistence and  
19   customary and traditional natural resource use and  
20   conservation for the Ahtna traditional territory with a  
21   core purpose of traditional resource stewardship.

22  
23                  Current initiatives that we have going  
24   on, we have a conservation innovation grant with the  
25   U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resource  
26   Conservation Service, NRCS. We've taken -- and then we  
27   have the tribal stewardship planning that we're doing  
28   with the University of Alaska and all of our tribes and  
29   Ahtna and Chitina Native Corporation to do resource  
30   management planning for the entire region tribe by  
31   tribe.

32  
33                  We've been doing some moose habitat  
34   planning. It started with a tribal wildlife grant  
35   through the Native Village of Tazlina that sponsored  
36   it. We were contracted to do that and I'll show you a  
37   little more of what has been happening with that. And  
38   we're looking at biomass planning and integration into  
39   our programs and then, of course, protecting our river  
40   with water quality sampling and salmon protection.

41  
42                  So our goal is to participate in  
43   sustainable subsistence resource management. To do  
44   this we need to have strong partnerships and working  
45   relations with the agencies and with the State and any  
46   others that are stakeholders within our region. One of  
47   the ways to do this is through public and private  
48   tribal partnerships working across those landscapes.

49  
50

1                   Community-based natural resource  
2 management creates partnerships, a collaborative  
3 process to address issues, it empowers the tribes and  
4 the landowners and it creates an ownership in  
5 management while recognizing those responsibilities.  
6 This balances sport hunting with subsistence. This  
7 goes by other names, community-based natural resource  
8 management, cooperative management, co-management. The  
9 concepts are the same.

10  
11                   So this isn't new. This has been done  
12 around the world. We have a biologist and forester  
13 working with us, Dr. Bill Well, who actually  
14 participated in some cooperative planning and  
15 co-management in Zambia. In here the folks are setting  
16 quotas for eland, elephant. It's just pretty amazing.  
17 But those three folks aren't the only ones doing the  
18 planning. They're actually talking to their tribal  
19 leaders and the agency biologist to work together to  
20 come up with those quotas.

21  
22                   What does this process do? It  
23 integrates traditional and cultural knowledge with  
24 Western science. We know what we've been talking about  
25 and we've been saying some of these things for many  
26 years, but we're not speaking the same vocabulary. The  
27 meaning behind what we're trying to say is the same.  
28 It's just we don't understand each other. We're  
29 speaking two different languages, so we're hoping  
30 through this process we'll be able to understand each  
31 other a little better and being involved in the process  
32 will help to simplify the rules.

33  
34                   So there are some working models of  
35 co-management in Alaska with Alaska Migratory Bird Co-  
36 Management Council, the Eskimo Whaling Commission, the  
37 Nanuuq Commission and there's several marine mammal  
38 councils as well. But this also works outside of  
39 Alaska as we see in Washington, Montana, Oregon,  
40 Wyoming, Arizona.

41  
42                   We got to go visit the Salish/Kootenai  
43 in Montana a couple years ago and sit in on one of  
44 their co-management meetings where the tribe was  
45 meeting with the Feds and the State to set regulation  
46 for their game. They were sitting at that table as  
47 equals. They not only helped to set that regulation,  
48 but they're cross deputized and then they also sell  
49 each others' permits.

50

1                   So when the State sells a permit for a  
2 tribal permit for hunting on tribal land, the tribe can  
3 also sell permits on the State side and that funding  
4 goes both ways. They keep a record of it and transfer  
5 money both ways. But that cross deputization helped  
6 with enforcement across the -- and it helps to make  
7 funding go farther.

8  
9                   So our traditional way is backed up by  
10 science. Like I said earlier, if we don't treat the  
11 animal right, what's been taught to us we won't get so  
12 easy the animals. If you don't treat anything write,  
13 the fishing, you'll never get fish or caribou no more.

14  
15                   One of our elders, Pete Ewan, who was  
16 pictured earlier. The Ahtna people know a great deal  
17 about the flora and fauna and we've depended on it for  
18 generations. It's detailed in the way of knowing of  
19 those animals. An example of this is in my fish camp  
20 my uncles would come and visit.

21  
22                   I had a biologist intern coming to my  
23 fish camp and he'd show up every Thursday about 6:30 in  
24 the morning to get otolith samples, the salmon ear  
25 bone. He'd sit I don't understand why they're coming  
26 that one came from Sloslota. He said what. I said the  
27 bigger one, that one came from Batzulnetas. He said  
28 how do you know. I said I've been there. I said I  
29 haven't been to Sloslota, but I've been to Batzulnetas,  
30 I said, but every year my uncle would come and sit with  
31 me at fish camp and tell me what stream those fish come  
32 out of.

33  
34                   And we have an elder from Chitina area  
35 that all the salmon come through there, through  
36 Chitina, but he can tell you which one came out of the  
37 Klutina, which one came out of the Tonsina and which  
38 one came from Batzulnetas at the north end of the river  
39 based on the time that they come back and what those  
40 salmon look like when they come through there. That's  
41 the way of knowing that's been passed down. My  
42 grandchildren have that same way of knowing.

43  
44                   So we've been working with on a  
45 conservation innovation grant and this is to develop an  
46 ecologically-based landscape assessment. We took all  
47 the mapping information out there and have it now under  
48 one platform and we're trying to develop a 10-year  
49 management plan across Ahtna's 1.7 million acres.

50

1                   This program initiated a partnership  
2 between BLM, DNR, Forestry, National Park Service, U.S.  
3 Fish and Wildlife Service and Department of Fish and  
4 Game. Here it is in action. So last February when the  
5 governor put a travel freeze out we had 12 Alaska  
6 Department of Fish and Game biologists come to the  
7 Glennallen area office, our offices, to do a training  
8 on moose browse surveys. So they had to get permission  
9 from the commissioner to travel to Glennallen. We had  
10 a couple folks from the Glennallen office and BLM, but  
11 we also had Ahtna's natural resource technicians there  
12 as well.

13  
14                   What they're doing is they're learning  
15 to speak the same language. So now when we go and talk  
16 about moose browse surveys on land that we've done  
17 habitat improvement to, they know that we're talking  
18 the same language. This building our credibility and  
19 building those partnerships even further.

20  
21                   So we'd like to look at this and work  
22 on fire strategy within the region. We've been talking  
23 with National Park Service about that. Because of this  
24 program Ahtna, Incorporated has actually changed its  
25 philosophy on some of the fire if we can work to  
26 protect our communities and we can let some things burn  
27 so that we create additional moose habitat.

28  
29                   And then of course the next we'd like  
30 to do is some population monitoring to see how  
31 effective our moose browse projects are. To the west  
32 of us we have the State of Alaska doing population  
33 trends for moose and caribou with bull to cow ratios  
34 and cow to calf ratios. The National Park Service  
35 actually counting the animals about every three years  
36 or so. And then they have a differing opinion on who's  
37 doing it the right way.

38  
39                   So if we continue to do these  
40 partnerships we can all start to speak the same  
41 language and talk about those populations. The animals  
42 don't know land ownership and boundaries. They go back  
43 forth and we need to look across the whole landscape to  
44 understand what's truly happening with those animals.

45  
46                   And then we're using our GIS  
47 information data sharing and I'm going to show you some  
48 of our mapping systems that we have. So again this is  
49 the Ahtna traditional territory. This is the soils  
50

1 data that's available to date. Because we started this  
2 process, NRCS is committed to a six-year program, about  
3 \$4 million to do soils survey throughout the rest of  
4 the region.

5  
6 This is caribou habitat in use within  
7 the area and this is what we've come up with for winter  
8 habitat sustainability index based on information that  
9 we've gathered. This is moose habitat use within the  
10 Ahtna traditional territory and this is where we think  
11 they're summering habitat sustainability index is with  
12 the darker green.

13  
14 The Native Village of Tazlina tribal  
15 wildlife grant was to conduct a vegetation analysis on  
16 Tazlina land and to develop a moose habitat management  
17 plan. We're connecting this to our conservation  
18 innovation grant and with that conservation innovation  
19 grant, taking that vegetation analysis and moose  
20 management program that was developed on Tazlina land  
21 and expanding it to the rest of the region.

22  
23 This is what we got from that. It's a  
24 lot of information and I couldn't tell you what it is,  
25 but that's the data that went into it. This is the  
26 land ownership pattern within the Tazlina area. Here  
27 is the wetlands, permafrost, soils, vegetation analysis  
28 and you can see there's a clear line of ownership and  
29 that was stuff that was done by the Park Service versus  
30 what is out there by the State.

31  
32 This is moose habitat sustainability  
33 index for that area, a little more detailed on what we  
34 think is good moose habitat.

35  
36 So there's three ways to make moose  
37 habitat; fire, logging and mechanical treatment. We  
38 think it's best to integrate all three. Mechanical  
39 treatment is a little spendy. Logging for biomass and  
40 timber will get little pockets of land, but best to do  
41 all three.

42  
43 It's a little hard to see on there, but  
44 that line to the right of the screen there is the fire  
45 line between Klutina and Tazlina. This is one on the  
46 north end of Glennallen. The pink outlines there are  
47 where we think that we can do some moose habitat  
48 improvement and get some biomass materials out of there  
49 for a pellet mill project that's going on in Gulkana.

50

1 So get biomass for heating fuel, provide some jobs and  
2 then create a better fire fuel break around the  
3 Glennallen community there.

4  
5 We've done some try it out and see,  
6 working it out and testing what works and what doesn't.  
7 This is the Tazlina area before and this is after one  
8 year and we got some good willow regrowth coming back  
9 in. This is on the Klutina when we had to do some  
10 scarification in there for willow reproduction. We had  
11 to stir up that moss to get the willow to take off and  
12 that was one of the lessons that we learned as we  
13 weren't getting enough scarification for good willow  
14 regrowth.

15  
16 Our next steps to continue with this  
17 wildlife management demonstration project to continue  
18 work on our food, fuel and fire and jobs piece where  
19 we're integrating moose habitat, biomass, energy  
20 resilient landscapes and creating some jobs in our  
21 communities. To work on population and habitat  
22 monitoring strategies and starting to capture some  
23 data.

24  
25 We do have a Fish and Wildlife Service  
26 partnership grant. We're actually advertising and  
27 looking for now a social scientist and we hope to have  
28 somebody on soon. We're also working on a Community  
29 Wildfire Protection Plan or CWPP for three of our  
30 tribes now. Two have some already and then we'll do it  
31 in a cyclic fashion.

32  
33 Looking at a Chitina volunteer check  
34 station where we gather some citizen data on salmon  
35 take there and then continue to pursue Federal or State  
36 co-management agreements.

37  
38 Any questions.

39  
40 (No comments)

41  
42 Do you have anything you want to say?

43  
44 MR. GENE: I'm Christopher Gene. I'm  
45 the chair for Ahtna Intertribal. Whatever Karen said,  
46 you know, and I'd like to really thank Karen for doing  
47 all this study and this presentation here. That's a  
48 lot of work she did, her and Bruce Cain. We've got one  
49 more board member back here Shirley Smelcer.

50

1 When I was in Fairbanks last week doing  
2 the Eastern RAC demonstration for MOA and they really  
3 liked the presentation we did to them. Even the Chair,  
4 Sue Entsminger, she really talked good about this  
5 project about the food we eat. And I was in Kotzebue  
6 with AFN board when Sally Jewell was up here and she  
7 had a roundtable discussion. She had every person  
8 speak about what their problem, what they wanted to see  
9 while she was there.

10  
11 That's the first time I seen that on  
12 the President's -- you know, she was representing  
13 Obama, the Secretary of Interior. She got feedback  
14 from each member that was there. I always talk really  
15 good about that because it's the first time it's ever  
16 happened. Then that's where a lot of stuff came on  
17 that Obama put in.

18  
19 Like Karen said, we lived in the  
20 courthouse. You know,  
21 Ahtna is a profit making corporation and they were  
22 paying for all this, you know, for our rights to hunt.  
23 It seemed we lived in the courthouse just to put food  
24 on the table for our families and stuff. Another thing  
25 is we don't hardly use the word subsistence anymore.  
26 We use customary and traditional, which is the way it  
27 should be. Subsistence, the way it's defined now, I  
28 don't think it's true. I don't think every Alaskan is  
29 a subsistence user.

30  
31 My daughters would like to see predator  
32 control. You know, up there in our area it's been  
33 proven once we get rid of bears and wolves moose come  
34 back. That's one of the things I'd like to see.

35  
36 I don't know how much you've got to do  
37 with fishing, but I'd like to see you do away with the  
38 catch and release because that's not our way of  
39 fishing. You're playing with that game, that fish.  
40 They die when you catch and release. If they would  
41 count it as harvest, that would be a little better, but  
42 I still would like to see that catch and release done  
43 away with. It's actually sport fishing is what it is.

44  
45 There's a few more things that, you  
46 know, I really don't like what our -- you know, the way  
47 we were taught, like Karen said, you know, about salmon  
48 and stuff, we don't overfish, we don't overhunt. They  
49 were always moving, our families, before, you know.

50



1 They never stayed in one place. They moved. Trapping,  
2 fishing, hunting.

3  
4 Again, I'd like to thank you guys for  
5 having us here. I'd like to thank you very much.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Karen,  
8 Christopher and your other member there. I'm sure we  
9 have questions and comments, but that was an excellent  
10 presentation.

11  
12 I too have lived in the courthouses to  
13 provide subsistence and I understand that. I really  
14 give you a lot of credit for doing your homework and  
15 putting together a plan that could work and you take  
16 control of your own lands. I know I've talked with a  
17 lot of people in your area and it's really amazing what  
18 you've done and where you're working.

19  
20 My concern is on and my question would  
21 be on the joint management. It's always bothered me  
22 that joint management to me does not work unless you  
23 have equal say at that table or at least a voice or a  
24 vote. I don't mean a voice. Voices don't cut it. I  
25 know that's where we're working.

26  
27 But as you prepare all your lands and  
28 all this information, you've done your customary and  
29 traditional uses, now you've got something to back you  
30 up. You've got something to say, hey, we could manage  
31 this probably as good or better than anyone and we have  
32 for many, many centuries.

33  
34 So I really appreciate it and I'm going  
35 to open it up to the Council for questions, but  
36 excellent presentation and wish you the best.

37  
38 Thank you.

39  
40 Judy.

41  
42 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
43 And thanks, Karen and Christopher. We, unlike Eastern  
44 Interior, have been fortunate to hear about the  
45 commission and your process for a long time, so that's  
46 great keeping us involved.

47  
48 So I guess what will be the next steps  
49 now? You have the Memorandum of Agreement and there's  
50

1 a charter now for this committee. Can you walk us  
2 through a little bit of what you expect the timeframe  
3 to be.

4  
5 MS. LINNELL: I believe we've got staff  
6 here that will walk you through that process. It's new  
7 to all of us, so we're stumbling along as well. It's  
8 my understanding that this has gone to the Federal  
9 Subsistence Board and the MOA is done. It's a done  
10 deal. But the charter has gone to the Federal  
11 Subsistence Board and they've looked at it and then  
12 they're okay with it. We went to Eastern Interior RAC  
13 and now to you folks and if you folks are okay with  
14 this, then they will forward it on to DC for signature.

15  
16 In regards to some of what my chairman  
17 has said about looking at predator control or  
18 biodiversity or that type of thing, we all know that  
19 you've got to look at resource management in a balance  
20 and you can't tip it one way or the other. There's got  
21 to be a balance.

22  
23 Last week or week before last my  
24 grandson went on his first trapping trip. We sent him  
25 out with somebody that my uncle had trained. He says,  
26 well, we didn't see any wolves. We saw some sign, he  
27 said, but we saw some lynx tracks. He got three otter  
28 and a couple marten and he's pretty excited about it.  
29 He said, but Grandma, you know, Ed said you've got to  
30 watch what you get. He said if you get too many  
31 females, you've got to stop. I said yeah, yeah.

32  
33 That's what your Grandpa JC taught him  
34 and now he's teaching you. You've got to make sure  
35 that the resource is there. Even though the wolves or  
36 bear come and take down our moose, we need to make sure  
37 that we don't tip that scale too far the other way as  
38 well.

39  
40 I think that's another basic difference  
41 in philosophy between ecology and environmentalists, is  
42 looking at the balance with man in balance with nature  
43 versus the effects of man on nature. You can have it  
44 too far one way or the other and we want to make sure  
45 that we continue to walk the same path that our elders  
46 have and staying in balance with that nature.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Very good. Is  
49 there other questions. Go ahead, Ricky.

50

1 MR. GEASE: Yeah, great presentation.  
2 Thank you. It's very informative. On the fire  
3 mitigation management, is that just on private regional  
4 corporation land or does that include BLM land, Park  
5 Service lands?  
6

7 MS. LINNELL: When we were talking with  
8 the Park, they were open to burn within the Park  
9 boundary. Natural. I'm not sure about actually  
10 starting some areas. We haven't had a fire in the  
11 Copper River Basin since 1981 of any significant size  
12 and that was within the Park boundary before it was a  
13 Park. The Wilson  
14 Camp Fire there was in 1981. I just got out of high  
15 school. It was my first fire. It's been a long time.  
16 I think the last time anything was on this side of the  
17 river was in the '20s.  
18

19 MR. STEVENS: In the '60s, Lower  
20 Tonsina area.  
21

22 MS. LINNELL: Yeah. So it's been a  
23 long time. One of our elders when he talks he said his  
24 dad told him there wasn't very much moose around there  
25 until I think the fire went through like 1927 and then  
26 after that moose came back and they've learned from  
27 that. They used to do a little controlled burn areas.  
28 So that's why we want to look at that.  
29

30 MR. GEASE: Just a general comment. I  
31 mean it seems like the Federal agencies when it comes  
32 to fire control will -- some agencies, again, it's a  
33 different policy depending on which agency you're  
34 interacting with. The Fish and Wildlife Service has a  
35 different perspective than the Forest Service than the  
36 Park Service. It would be nice in Alaska to get a  
37 consistent viewpoint of fire mitigation management  
38 where it's just not, well, if a fire happens, then  
39 we'll let it burn. We've all heard that.  
40

41 But taking active steps and active  
42 management for fire mitigation in Alaska for habitat I  
43 think it's -- when we talk about cooperative stewards  
44 it's great to have things on private property, but also  
45 on the Federal lands, being on the Kenai Peninsula, we  
46 witness that, you know, these very large fires with  
47 some fire breaks. The only reason why our community I  
48 think is still standing is because we have a very large  
49 fire break on the north end of the Kenai National  
50

1 Wildlife Refuge. It's 100 yards wide and about 10  
2 miles long. That was the fire break. That fire would  
3 have come into our communities if that fire break  
4 hadn't been there.

5  
6 As you go forward, my suggestion would  
7 be to look proactively towards both -- you know, if  
8 you're doing things on your own properties there,  
9 that's great, but also find some encouragement to not  
10 just let it burn philosophy. Some agencies will take  
11 structures and do some fire breaks around structures,  
12 but it's not that big of a stretch to go on and to do  
13 it for habitat also.

14  
15 MS. LINNELL: Thank you. That is part  
16 of our planning and what we're trying to do. We have a  
17 wildlife urban interface grant and we're doing  
18 community wildfire protection plans for three of our  
19 communities and with that in mind. We need to set some  
20 boundaries and lines of protection around those  
21 communities before we move forward with anything like  
22 that.

23  
24 We have been looking at and talking  
25 about doing something in the more remote areas and  
26 that's why within the Park boundary and talking with  
27 the park that they're willing to allow us to do  
28 something like that on that side of the river. On the  
29 Wrangell-St. Elias when I say Park. We have two Parks.  
30 Not so much on the Denali side. But that's what we've  
31 been talking about, at the Wrangell side.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Other questions  
34 for Karen or Christopher.

35  
36 (No comments)

37  
38 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Carl were you  
39 going to come up and talk to us? Thank you very much.  
40 I just want to make one comment while Carl is coming up  
41 here. Sometime on the predator control, you know, we,  
42 as traditional customary use, were some of the better  
43 controllers. I know on a lot of our Native land we had  
44 to get some of our best hunters and trappers to help us  
45 out with that balance and it works.

46  
47 Thank you.

48  
49 Go ahead, Carl.

50

1 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
2 Again, for the record, Carl Johnson, the Office of  
3 Subsistence Management. Mr. Chair, Members of the  
4 Council. The materials that I'll be discussing begin  
5 on Page 18 of your book.  
6

7 I'm going to give you essentially a  
8 quick overview of the MOA, but I'm not here really to  
9 talk about the MOA. I'm here to talk about what  
10 follows, which is the charter for the local advisory  
11 committee that's connected to this.  
12

13 This is kind of forming themes in this  
14 Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of  
15 Interior and the Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission.  
16 First of all, recognizing the unique  
17 government-to-government relationship between the  
18 Federal government and the Federally recognized tribes  
19 that are part of that Tribal Resource Commission.  
20

21 Secondly, I think this is pretty  
22 significant, is not only the recognition of the value  
23 of traditional knowledge with regard to customary and  
24 traditional practices, but a recognition of its  
25 importance and sort of elevation of its role in  
26 management.  
27

28 Next, another main theme is this  
29 Memorandum of Agreement is strictly related to  
30 wildlife. It's not about fisheries. It's just about  
31 wildlife and both sides, both parties to the agreement  
32 recognizing the importance of managing wildlife  
33 populations for sustainability.  
34

35 Finally, essentially recognition that  
36 things just aren't working right now. I'll key in to  
37 particular language that's in the background  
38 objectives. The Department recognizes that special  
39 circumstances within the Ahtna region have not  
40 permitted these local residents to meet their  
41 subsistence needs.  
42

43 That's kind of a theme you see  
44 throughout, which is, I think, an importance of  
45 understanding why there's this effort to kind of set up  
46 this unique situation, this unique management  
47 opportunity.  
48

49 So those are the general themes. There  
50

1 are four specific sections. The first section  
2 contemplates a community permit managed by the Ahtna  
3 Intertribal Resource Commission. The MOA calls for  
4 either rulemaking or delegation of authority to  
5 accomplish that goal.

6  
7 The second part, and I'll get into more  
8 detail, is the formation of a local advisory committee  
9 that is compliant with the Federal Advisory Committee  
10 Act. That's the same Federal statute that governs the  
11 procedures for public decision-making that governs this  
12 Council, the Regional Advisory Councils for the whole  
13 program.

14  
15 The third section essentially calls for  
16 future cooperative development of management policies  
17 and programs related to wildlife in the region.

18  
19 The last section calls for funding  
20 commitment from the Department to implement this  
21 Memorandum of Agreement.

22  
23 Again, my focus is on Part B under the  
24 statement of the agreement, which is the formation of  
25 the local advisory committee. Now just a little quick  
26 background. When Title VIII of Alaska National  
27 Interest Lands Conservation Act was passed, it was  
28 conceived that the State of Alaska would be  
29 implementing this part of the law. As we all know,  
30 that didn't happen.

31  
32 But the language in the statute called  
33 for both the creation of Regional Advisory Councils and  
34 local advisory committees and said that if the State  
35 local advisory committees weren't working, the Feds  
36 could set up local advisory committees to help to  
37 interact and make recommendations with the Regional  
38 Advisory Councils.

39  
40 Now, as we all know, that didn't work  
41 out and we have a system in place where there are State  
42 advisory committees, but they're not really part of the  
43 Federal Subsistence Management Program because we had  
44 to evolve through a separate State and Federal  
45 management. But that language still exists and that  
46 language exists in the regulations that the Board -- or  
47 the Secretary has delegated to the Board had to go  
48 through a public process, one that was going to form a  
49 local advisory committee under Section 805 of ANILCA.

50

1 So the Federal Subsistence Board  
2 underwent that process by having a public meeting in  
3 Anchorage on January 13th or provided notice that there  
4 would be a discussion and opportunity for people to  
5 come in and testify about the formation of this Ahtna  
6 local advisory committee.

7  
8 Now the regulations that have been  
9 adopted from ANILCA also require that the affected  
10 Regional Advisory Councils be given the opportunity to  
11 provide recommendations to the Board on the  
12 establishment and membership of Federal local advisory  
13 committees. So that's why this is before this Council  
14 now and also was before the Eastern Interior Council  
15 last week.

16  
17 That is one of the steps that we're  
18 going to go through here is to get your input on the  
19 establishment of this committee and its membership.

20  
21 Now this brings me a little more  
22 specifically to the provisions of the charter. The  
23 charter begins on Page 38 of your book. Now you're  
24 going to see a lot of the language in here is similar  
25 to the charter that is for your own Regional Advisory  
26 Council. So what I'm going to do is just focus on the  
27 provisions that differ from the Regional Advisory  
28 Council charters.

29  
30 While this local advisory committee,  
31 which will be called the Ahtna Customary and  
32 Traditional Subsistence Local Advisory Committee would  
33 be its name. While this committee does interact with  
34 the Federal Subsistence Management Program, it is  
35 formed under Section 805, its objective and scope of  
36 activities is a bit different and it's more specific  
37 because of the mission of the Memorandum of Agreement,  
38 which is to incorporate customary and traditional  
39 knowledge of the Ahtna Region, greater participation  
40 with people from the villages of the Ahtna Region into  
41 wildlife management. That's why you'll see this  
42 language is a bit different in that section compared to  
43 yours.

44  
45 Additionally, the description of the  
46 duties are, in some cases, more narrow than that of the  
47 Regional Advisory Councils. Most Regional Advisory  
48 Councils are empowered to discuss both fisheries and  
49 wildlife issues, policies, management, et cetera, in  
50

1 their region. Whereas here it's focused on those  
2 issues related to wildlife and specifically within  
3 what's been defined as the Ahtna Traditional Use  
4 Territory.

5  
6 There was a map up there earlier that  
7 had a red outline. That is the map that will go with  
8 the charter when it's submitted and that is the area  
9 that we're talking about when we talk about the Ahtna  
10 Traditional Use Territory.

11  
12 Now some differences, again to  
13 recognize this special relationship from the Memorandum  
14 of Agreement, you'll see in paragraph D, Collect,  
15 gather, and disseminate Ahtna traditional ecological  
16 knowledge. Again, this is distinct from the Regional  
17 Advisory Council Charters because this is one of the  
18 focuses, one of the purposes of this committee is to  
19 help to gather and disseminate traditional knowledge.

20  
21 Then finally you'll see a little bit of  
22 how this committee will interact with the program in  
23 that this committee would provide recommendations to  
24 the Regional Advisory Councils as well as to the  
25 Subsistence Resource Commissions for the two National  
26 Parks that are within the Ahtna Traditional Use  
27 Territory and also the Federal Subsistence Board.

28  
29 Now some of the questions you may have  
30 will be, well, specifically when would this local  
31 advisory committee make recommendations to the RAC and  
32 when would make recommendations to the Federal  
33 Subsistence Board. That part we're not entirely clear  
34 on because this is the first time in the history of  
35 this program that Section 805 has been invoked to form  
36 a Federal local advisory committee. So we're still  
37 kind of figuring out how that interaction would occur.

38  
39 Lastly, one of the requirements of a  
40 Federal advisory committee is that there is a balance  
41 of membership so that the people who are members of  
42 that committee are there to adequately represent the  
43 balance of interest affected by its recommendations.  
44 So you'll see on paragraph 12, membership and  
45 designation, a membership balance specified and this  
46 comes from language in the Memorandum of Agreement.

47  
48 It would consist of a total of 11  
49 members, six of whom are nominated by the Ahtna  
50



1 Intertribal Resource Commission. One each from the two  
2 Regional Advisory Councils and the two Subsistence  
3 Resource Commissions. One nominated by the State of  
4 Alaska. All members still have to be appointed by the  
5 Secretary of the Interior.

6  
7 Again, given the purpose of this  
8 committee to incorporate both traditional ecological  
9 knowledge and kind of interact with existing management  
10 structures for both the State and the Federal programs,  
11 that's why this kind of conceived balance of six from  
12 the AITRC and five from other affected entities was  
13 contemplated in the Memorandum of Agreement and then  
14 also in this Charter.

15  
16 Now the process of approving this  
17 Charter and getting this committee operating is going  
18 to be somewhat lengthy. When we file this Charter,  
19 there's about seven other documents, as you can  
20 imagine. When you get anything approved in D.C.,  
21 there's going to be a lot of other documents related to  
22 it. A lot of those documents kind of mirror similar  
23 language in the Charter and the MOA, but basically  
24 provide the justification for establishing this  
25 committee, provide the justification for the membership  
26 balance and how that membership balance will help to  
27 achieve the goals of the committee and within the  
28 requirements of a Federal Advisory Committee Act.

29  
30 One of the other things that has to  
31 happen is even after the Charter is approved in form,  
32 there still has to be a notice in the Federal Register  
33 that this committee is being formed. As you heard  
34 earlier, we're on hold right now for publishing any  
35 Federal Register Notices until further notice.

36  
37 So it's somewhat unknown as to how long  
38 this process will take. Typical, when I researched a  
39 couple years ago, the fastest any Federal Advisory  
40 Committee had ever been formed with Charter approval  
41 and appointments was about three months and that was  
42 not during a new administration transition. So I would  
43 guess probably a minimum of six months is how long it  
44 would take to get the Charter approved and maybe a  
45 Federal Register notice published.

46  
47 So that's essentially the overall of my  
48 presentation. I'm happy to entertain any questions  
49 from the Council at this time.

50

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Carl.  
4 Tom, do you want to start out. You've got a question?

5

6 MR. CARPENTER: Yeah. Thank you, guys,  
7 for your presentation and helping clarify some of that  
8 since it's a new process. I have a couple questions.  
9 Where does the funding come -- is this funded through  
10 OSM, the advisory committee process, if this Charter  
11 were to be adopted and signed? Maybe touch on that  
12 first and I've got another question.

13

14

15 MR. JOHNSON: Certainly. Through the  
16 Chair. So the Memorandum of Agreement, that fourth  
17 section under Article III, calls for a -- it states  
18 there's a commitment from the Department to provide  
19 funding to accomplish the goals of the MOA and that  
20 would include this local advisory committee. The most  
21 likely avenue for that funding would come through the  
22 Federal Subsistence Management Program.

23

24 The Staff support for it would come  
25 from the Office of Subsistence Management. We don't  
26 know at this point in time whether or not those funds  
27 will be allocated. We're in somewhat of a budget  
28 uncertain future world at this point.

29

30 MR. CARPENTER: I guess that was where  
31 I was kind of headed. Obviously the State of Alaska's  
32 coffers run dry and obviously the OSM budget has been  
33 cut significantly over the last several years. I was  
34 curious where the appropriation was going to come from  
35 to fund this basically an expanded service, which OSM  
36 already provides. Anyway, I guess that will get hashed  
37 out in the long run.

38

39 Secondly, I'm curious if you think this  
40 is going to lead to many more groups wanting to form  
41 Federal Advisory Committees. Obviously this will be the  
42 first one at least in the Southcentral Region. If that  
43 were to take place, is there any sort of boundary that  
44 has been set up to, A, how many could be formed, does  
45 it have to be regional? Do you understand what I'm  
46 saying? Is there any boundaries there?

47

48 MR. JOHNSON: Through the Chair. The  
49 guidance that we rely on, both Section 805 and the

50

1 regulations, don't specify any boundaries like that.  
2 Section 805 does prescribe a specific relationship  
3 between local advisory committees and making  
4 recommendations to Regional Advisory Councils. So it  
5 depends on the need, on the motivation, on the support.  
6  
7

8 I mean this particular committee comes  
9 out of a very specific executive action to promote  
10 these types of cooperative management situations  
11 between tribes and the Federal government. There was  
12 very specific support from a past administration on  
13 this particular issue.  
14

15 So it's conceivable that a local  
16 advisory committee could cross Regional Advisory  
17 Council boundaries, you know, be between two different  
18 subsistence regions. It just depends on the need and  
19 the purpose of that local advisory committee.  
20

21 MR. CARPENTER: Then my final question  
22 is I thought it was interesting, and correct me if I'm  
23 wrong, you said that we're not sure exactly at this  
24 time if this advisory committee is going to report to  
25 the RAC or does it go directly to the Federal Board. I  
26 guess the reason that that kind of concerns me is I  
27 think that most things in Southcentral should come  
28 before the RAC if it's going to be presented to the  
29 Federal Board. I'm curious because the Federal Board  
30 shows the RACs deference in certain situations. Is it  
31 also going to show deference to this committee and has  
32 that been hashed out.  
33

34 MR. JOHNSON: Through the Chair. Thank  
35 you for that, Tom. That's one of the things I  
36 neglected to mention in my initial presentation. Per  
37 the language of the Memorandum of Agreement, the local  
38 advisory committee will not receive the same deference  
39 that Regional Advisory Councils do. Its  
40 recommendations will be given significant weight, but  
41 because Section 805(c) is very specific to the language  
42 that we rely on for giving deference to the Regional  
43 Advisory Councils and Section 805(c) only refers to  
44 Regional Advisory Councils. So the local advisory  
45 committee will not be given the same deference.  
46

47 Now to the first part of your question,  
48 and that is when this local advisory committee would  
49 interact with the Regional Advisory Council or the  
50

1 Board, the Charter prescribes that it would do both.  
2 It would give recommendations both to the Regional  
3 Advisory Council and to the Federal Subsistence Board.  
4 When that happens, when the distinction is made, is  
5 something unclear.  
6

7 I mean one thing that seems logical to  
8 me -- and again this is just trying to think about how  
9 this could work, would be, for example, if this local  
10 advisory committee had submitted a wildlife proposal  
11 that was unique to the Ahtna Traditional Use Territory  
12 and was pursuant to the specific purposes of the  
13 Memorandum of Agreement it might seem sensible that  
14 that local advisory committee would present its  
15 recommendations directly to the Federal Subsistence  
16 Board.  
17

18 But if it fell within a Game Management  
19 Unit that residents of the Southcentral Region had  
20 customary and traditional use determination for it,  
21 then, like any other wildlife proposal, this Council  
22 would also provide -- it would have an opportunity to  
23 make its recommendations on that proposal.  
24

25 MR. CARPENTER: Okay. Thank you very  
26 much.  
27

28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Gloria.  
29

30 MS. STICKWAN: I had a question about  
31 land management authority. Agencies still have land  
32 management authority within their -- like BLM and NPS,  
33 they would still have management authority over their  
34 lands?  
35

36 MR. JOHNSON: Through the Chair. Yes,  
37 this Memorandum of Agreement does not affect any  
38 existing legal obligations or authority that managers  
39 have. It can't override the statutory obligations that  
40 Park Service and BLM have to manage their land.  
41

42 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Judy.  
43

44 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
45 Maybe it's a follow up to Tom's question. Tom, what I  
46 heard at the Federal Board meeting when this was being  
47 discussed was -- I believe the reason this was set up  
48 was because of this very unique situation of so many  
49 non-resident hunters being -- I shouldn't say  
50

1 non-resident, but so many non-local people, would that  
2 be.....

3  
4 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Customary and  
5 traditional.

6  
7 MS. CAMINER: People who at least under  
8 the Federal program don't have customary and  
9 traditional hunting sort of because it's road  
10 connected. So what the Solicitor's Office said at that  
11 meeting was unlikely there would be other similar  
12 agreements, they really see this as a very unique  
13 situation.

14  
15 Then a follow up to you, Carl, if I  
16 could. So is OSM preparing a Federal Register notice  
17 or it will be your responsibility to get this set up if  
18 you will or drafted?

19  
20 MR. JOHNSON: Through the Chair. Yes,  
21 I'm working on all of those. There's about eight  
22 different documents, including the Charter, that are  
23 required for formation of a new Federal advisory  
24 committee. I'm preparing those and we'll be getting  
25 those off to D.C. as soon as we go through our review  
26 process at OSM.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Judy.

29  
30 MS. CAMINER: I guess one other process  
31 question, which I think will be important when we need  
32 to decide on future dates of meetings. The system  
33 seems to work best if the SRC can meet before us and we  
34 have their recommendations and then have our  
35 deliberations, but it would also seem now once this new  
36 local advisory committee is set up that if the  
37 committee is able to meet even before that, it would  
38 just seem like a good progression to make sure we have  
39 all the appropriate local input before we get to see  
40 proposals. So that just might affect how we schedule  
41 our meetings.

42  
43 MR. JOHNSON: Through the Chair.  
44 That's an excellent point. Having members from both  
45 SRCs and both Regional Advisory Councils serving on the  
46 committee will help to keep that connection. Again,  
47 right now, all Federal Advisory Committees have to have  
48 what's called a Designated Federal Official, which is a  
49 fancy word for your Council Coordinator. So it's

50

1 likely, as Donald indicated earlier, that there will be  
2 somebody from OSM that would provide that connection.  
3 Right now I can see Donald as being a logical person  
4 for that.

5  
6 But we would have those connections.  
7 You'll see from region to region what kind of  
8 interaction there is between SRCs and the Regional  
9 Advisory Councils and different advisory committees.  
10 So if it's the desire of this Council to schedule its  
11 meetings after the Ahtna local advisory committee has  
12 met, then that would be something that we could try to  
13 help coordinate.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Gloria.

16  
17 MS. STICKWAN: Is it possible for you  
18 to explain what you meant by if it affects other people  
19 it will be brought before this RAC. Can you be more  
20 specific about that.

21  
22 MR. JOHNSON: I'm not sure I understand  
23 what you're referring to.

24  
25 MS. STICKWAN: I think you said  
26 proposals would be brought before this RAC if it  
27 affected other users. Could you be more specific.

28  
29 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. I believe the  
30 example I said was if this advisory committee were  
31 dealing with a proposal that was targeted specifically  
32 to the Ahtna Traditional Use Territory and for the  
33 purposes of the Memorandum of Agreement it would seem  
34 illogical for this local advisory committee to make its  
35 recommendations directly to the Board, but the Regional  
36 Advisory Council, if it affected people who were  
37 Federally qualified users in their region, they would  
38 also have an opportunity to provide a recommendation on  
39 that same proposal.

40  
41 MS. STICKWAN: I guess you're not  
42 being specific enough for me because I don't understand  
43 what you're saying.

44  
45 MR. JOHNSON: So, say for example if  
46 you're looking at the map, the Ahtna Traditional --  
47 again, the one that's in your book is on Page 42. Now  
48 this isn't correct, this is an earlier map, it's not  
49 the one that's ideal. It's not the official one that  
50

1 we're going to be submitting with the Charter. But  
2 this helps to hopefully define the discussion.

3  
4 If there was a proposal that Ahtna  
5 Intertribal Resource Commission submitted and it was  
6 for the purpose of the Memorandum of Agreement, so it  
7 was for something within the Ahtna Traditional Use  
8 Territory, then if it fell within part of the  
9 Southcentral Region, the Southcentral Council, if it's  
10 a Federal wildlife proposal and it affects users in  
11 your region, the Southcentral Regional Advisory Council  
12 will have an opportunity to make a recommendation to  
13 the Board.

14  
15 But the Ahtna customary and traditional  
16 subsistence local advisory committee, which is the new  
17 committee that would be formed by this Charter, would  
18 also have the opportunity to make a recommendation on  
19 that proposal and it's conceivable that that would be  
20 one time where their recommendation might go directly  
21 to the Board.

22  
23 Again, this is the first time that a  
24 Federal local advisory committee has been formed, so  
25 we're still kind of figuring out how it will connect.  
26 The Charter contemplates it connecting in all  
27 directions. The Charter has the local advisory  
28 committee making recommendations to the Secretary, to  
29 the Board, to the SRCs, to the Regional Advisory  
30 Councils. So there's a lot of different kind of  
31 connections that this committee could make with Federal  
32 subsistence management in this region.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, Gloria, I  
35 hope that that was helpful. I understand where you're  
36 coming from because it's not ironed out and it's a  
37 little bit questionable how it's going to work. I mean  
38 we really don't know. But I understand too what you're  
39 saying, Carl. You're saying that most likely if it  
40 covers our duties, we'll handle it. Something direct  
41 to Ahtna's Traditional Territory, it may go other ways.  
42 We'll see.

43  
44 Tom.

45  
46 MR. CARPENTER: Carl, this is just a  
47 suggestion. I think that needs to be hashed out. I  
48 think whoever the determining factor is there, the  
49 Solicitor's Office, I don't know who's going to make  
50

1 the final determination, I think that needs to be very  
2 specific because that could cause a lot of confusion in  
3 the long run. I'm not sure what your take on it is,  
4 who's going to make that final determination, but I  
5 think that's pretty big.

6  
7 MR. JOHNSON: Through the Chair. I  
8 completely agree. We still have a lot of uncertainty  
9 about this, whether or not this committee will even  
10 exist. It's still subject to approval. Just the  
11 concept of the committee is subject to approval by D.C.  
12 The membership balance is subject to approval. How it  
13 interacts with the Federal Subsistence Board will be  
14 subject to approval. Pretty much everything that's in  
15 that Charter once we hand it to D.C. it's out of our  
16 hands.

17  
18 There's a lot of times in the past  
19 years when we've tried to add things to the Charters  
20 for the Regional Advisory Councils they haven't been  
21 approved in D.C. even though they would have in many  
22 ways helped to improve some administrative issues on  
23 our end. They really do expect boilerplate language to  
24 be boilerplate in D.C. So whenever there's deviations  
25 there's been some resistance in the past to any  
26 language that deviates from a typical Charter.

27  
28 So it's uncertain, but I agree with  
29 that. One potential is the Federal Advisory Committee  
30 Act does provide for the opportunity in addition to a  
31 Charter for there to be an establishment of bylaws that  
32 governs the operations of the committee.  
33 None of the Regional Advisory Committees have bylaws  
34 because it's something we really haven't had a need to  
35 implement.

36  
37 What we use instead is what we call our  
38 Regional Advisory Council Operations Manual which  
39 basically tells you how we do things and how things  
40 work. But that is one mechanism where you could  
41 potentially specify the times in which this committee  
42 would advise directly to the Board, directly to  
43 Regional Advisory Councils. It's definitely something  
44 we will figure out before it gets implemented. That's  
45 for sure. Probably the guidance for that would come  
46 from either the Solicitor or D.C. or both.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Gloria.

49  
50



1 MS. STICKWAN: And this will all be in  
2 the Federal Register so people will be able to comment  
3 on it, right?

4  
5 MR. JOHNSON: Through the Chair. The  
6 Federal Register notice is very limited in specificity.  
7 It doesn't give exact examples on how the committee  
8 will operate. It just basically says that one is being  
9 established, what's the purpose of it, what the  
10 membership balance is, but a lot of that is I imagine  
11 left to a lot of the specifics of how Federal Advisory  
12 Committees operate.

13  
14 One, to the individual agency guidance,  
15 what the agencies have. Each agency that administers  
16 Federal Advisory Committees has its own specific  
17 guidance as to how it will operate. Also, a lot of it  
18 is also left to the bylaws for those committees that  
19 have them.

20  
21 So the Federal Register notice most  
22 likely would not have that level of specific details as  
23 to when and how this committee would make  
24 recommendations on Federal subsistence regulations.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Judy.

27  
28 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
29 So, Carl, you're showing us the draft Charter now and  
30 we're giving you some feedback. Will the Charter be  
31 finalized soon or that would only  
32 happen afterwards?

33  
34 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you. Through the  
35 Chair. So the draft Charter is finalized. Essentially  
36 the language in the Charter is a mixture of what's  
37 required by law by the Federal Advisory Committee Act,  
38 and the specific goals of the Memorandum of Agreement.  
39 So the language has been predetermined essentially from  
40 those two sources.

41  
42 What the feedback is that the Federal  
43 Subsistence Board seeks is recommendations just on  
44 whether or not this should be established and  
45 recommendations on a membership balance. Even though  
46 the membership balance does come from the Memorandum of  
47 Agreement, the Memorandum of Agreement states that it  
48 is anticipated that the members will be as they're  
49 prescribed here in the Charter. So it's conceivable  
50

1 that that could change, but the goals of Memorandum of  
2 Agreement state the membership balance that's in the  
3 Charter.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Gloria.

6  
7 MS. STICKWAN: You said there was a  
8 hold by the government because it's a transition  
9 period. Do you know when that's going to be lifted?  
10 Do you have any idea?

11  
12 MR. JOHNSON: Through the Chair. We  
13 have no idea. I am told that during the last  
14 administration change we were authorized to issue  
15 notices again I believe it was sometime in June, but  
16 different administration, different goals, different  
17 methods, different objectives. It's hard to say. It's  
18 really impossible to project at this time.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We really  
21 got in detail on that one. We took something that was  
22 pretty -- anyway, we've got a lot of unanswered  
23 questions, but very good concept.

24  
25 So my question, Carl, now, we are here  
26 at the Council, we've heard it, we've debated for quite  
27 a while. So I'm ready to move on to the point of we  
28 support the concept of this draft, is that correct?  
29 And we need the Council to act on that, is that my  
30 understanding?

31  
32 MR. JOHNSON: That is correct, just on  
33 the establishment and the membership balance, but I  
34 also think that Ricky has a question.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It's okay. We're  
37 talking to you right now. I'll see him in a minute.

38  
39 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, so essentially the  
40 regulation again provides the Regional Advisory Council  
41 an opportunity to make recommendations on the  
42 establishment and the membership balance of a local  
43 advisory committee. So any feedback the Council has at  
44 this time is welcome, but as with any recommendation, a  
45 specific action and a motion by the Council is always  
46 welcome.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Ricky, go ahead.

49  
50

1 MR. GEASE: So I just want to bring a  
2 few points up here because I want to know if there's  
3 been a shift in subsistence management in Alaska and I  
4 just want to read a few things here to clarify because  
5 I heard from the presentation there was a talk about  
6 the difference between ecology and environmentalism, we  
7 had talked about recognized principles of wildlife  
8 management and we had talked about predator control.

9  
10 If you look at the statement of  
11 agreement, it talks about subsistence taking of  
12 wildlife species including moose, caribou and other  
13 culturally and traditionally harvested species on  
14 Federal lands. The agreement talks about regulatory  
15 processes for the conservation of healthy populations  
16 and public safety. It talks about the objective to  
17 provide maximum opportunity for the continuation of a  
18 hunting way of life and the right to  
19 self-determination.

20  
21 Does that mean that we now are entering  
22 a timeframe where we have a philosophical shift in  
23 Alaska of how Federal agencies look at predator control  
24 and specifically looking at putting in hunting  
25 regulations for an active management for two species  
26 like wolves and bears or is this just restricted to a  
27 component of the hunting way of life and not the  
28 totality of a hunting way of life?

29  
30 MR. JOHNSON: Through the Chair. A  
31 similar answer to the one I had earlier for Gloria  
32 regarding land management and that is the Memorandum of  
33 Agreement can't override statutes. Right now the  
34 Federal Subsistence Board's predator management policy  
35 is based on the definition of subsistence use in Title  
36 VIII of ANILCA and this doesn't change that. So any  
37 Federal subsistence management related to predators  
38 won't change as a result of this Memorandum of  
39 Agreement.

40  
41 I would say that a lot of the language  
42 that you're referring to there is it's definitely an  
43 understanding between the Ahtna Intertribal Resource  
44 Commission and the then department. I can't speak to  
45 what the current department will say about that. It is  
46 an understanding of principles, but those principles  
47 still can't override the statutory obligations that the  
48 Board and the various land managers have for their  
49 obligations on how they manage wildlife.

50

1 MR. GEASE: Well, it seems to me since  
2 I've been associated with the RAC the number one  
3 concern voiced by people coming here and talking about  
4 healthy populations, whether it's moose or caribou or  
5 other populations is predator control. I think that it  
6 is a huge chunk. We're in, what, 35 years now into the  
7 subsistence management in Alaska. When we talk about  
8 dual management part of the dichotomy there is on  
9 Federal lands, which are two-thirds of the lands in  
10 Alaska, we are not doing active management for, quote,  
11 apex predators and on State lands we are.

12  
13 It has to do with wildlife fire  
14 management also. We're on State lands and hopefully  
15 that's changing, but both on Federal lands we're, you  
16 know, don't touch anything until it starts burning,  
17 that we find more agreement. Those two things are huge  
18 in wildlife populations in Alaska. I'm glad to hear  
19 there's more proactive management on fire, but that  
20 seems to be on private lands, not necessarily on public  
21 lands. The predator management continues to be an  
22 issue.

23  
24 If we're truly going to respect Native  
25 populations in the state, that was a traditional  
26 management concept within Alaska Native culture any  
27 place across the state and it continues to confound me  
28 why we have the Feds saying we'll have different ways  
29 of actively managing predator populations than the  
30 State and the Native communities in the state. That's  
31 just a dichotomy intention that I don't see being  
32 resolved here.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I'm going  
35 to go ahead and speak to that. I don't think we're  
36 trying to resolve that here. I think we're getting a  
37 little off course, but let's get back. I think his  
38 comments are well taken there. There's something that  
39 needs to be looked at, but that's definitely not where  
40 we're at here.

41  
42 Let's go ahead and -- Judy.

43  
44 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. I'll like to  
45 make a motion that the Regional Council support this  
46 Charter and encourage that the formation of the new  
47 advisory committee take place as quickly as possible  
48 given our general circumstances. That doesn't have to  
49 be part of the motion, but that it be formed as quickly  
50

1 as possible and that we will support by at some point  
2 naming someone from our Council to be part of the  
3 process.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Is there a second  
6 to that motion.

7  
8 MR. GEASE: Second.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Seconded by  
11 Ricky. Discussion. Go ahead, Tom.

12  
13 MR. CARPENTER: I would hope that some  
14 of the comments  
15 that we made this afternoon in regards to some  
16 potential conflicts with this advisory committee being  
17 formed. I think they should be looked at and rectified  
18 if possible so that there's nothing that the people in  
19 D.C. can use to stall or halt or deny. It seems like  
20 this has been worked on for quite a while and I think  
21 if you take those recommendations and modify it, I  
22 think this has a lot of positive things that could come  
23 out of it in the long run.

24  
25 Anyway, that's all my comment. I'd  
26 call the question.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Gloria's got a  
29 comment before you call the question.

30  
31 MS. STICKWAN: I just want to say that  
32 we both have the same main objective and that's to be  
33 conservative on the wildlife. Karen said that more  
34 than once. So that's something we're looking at  
35 seriously is being conservative with the wildlife. I  
36 think working together will -- having somebody from  
37 this Council on that I think it will work together and  
38 I think it could work well together. I don't see a  
39 problem with it.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,  
42 Gloria. Tom, did you want to call the question.

43  
44 MR. CARPENTER: Yeah, question.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: The question has  
47 been called. All in favor of the motion as presented  
48 and seconded signify by saying aye.

49  
50

1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.

4

5 (No opposing votes)

6

7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Motion so  
8 carries. We support it and we'll work on what we need  
9 to appoint when the time comes. Thank you very much,  
10 Carl and Karen and everyone else.

11

12 Great discussion.

13

14 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
15 Members of the Council. Again, I appreciate your  
16 patience and us not having all the answers at this  
17 point. It's very new territory, but we will certainly  
18 keep you up to date at each of your meetings and in  
19 between about any developments.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 MS. LINNELL: I too would like to thank  
24 you, Mr. Chair and Council Members. We're looking  
25 forward to working with you folks and doing what we can  
26 and what's best for the resources out there.

27

28 So thank you so much.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you very  
31 much. I have 3:00 and I would like to take a five  
32 minute break and then we're going to come back to  
33 agency reports and move on to the next item.

34

35 Donald has something. Go ahead.

36

37 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
38 just got notified that there's one item that we  
39 neglected to add into our agenda. I need one member to  
40 call for suspension of rules so the Council can adopt  
41 this particular item and take action on it. It's a  
42 letter from the Kodiak/Aleutians Regional Advisory  
43 Council on the subject of the published Federal  
44 regulations for Alaska National Wildlife Refuges non-  
45 subsistence take of wildlife and public participation  
46 and closure procedures on National Wildlife Refuges in  
47 Alaska.

48

49 The Kodiak/Aleutians requested that

50

1 Fish and Wildlife Service has failed to recognize the  
2 concerns of the Councils and impacts of these  
3 regulatory actions on rural subsistence opportunities.  
4 Therefore the Council requests to relay these concerns  
5 to the Secretary of Interior with a request for the  
6 Secretary to withdraw the regulations.

7  
8 I'll just go ahead and I'll pass these  
9 around and then when we come back from break we can  
10 request a suspension of the rules and adopt this as  
11 part of the agenda and take action on it.

12  
13 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. You heard  
16 Donald read that. It will be totally up to us if we  
17 want to suspend any rules and take it up. Go ahead and  
18 look at it and we'll come back in five minutes and  
19 we're going to move on.

20  
21 Thank you.

22  
23 (Off record)

24  
25 (On record)

26  
27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Council Members.  
28 I told them five minutes. We're ready to go here,  
29 guys.

30  
31 (Pause)

32  
33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We're going to go  
34 ahead and get started again. Gloria is still in the  
35 hall. She'll be in here shortly. I think we're ready  
36 to go.

37  
38 Just before our break it was asked that  
39 potentially if we wanted to suspend the rules to take  
40 an action, but I've been further informed that in  
41 regulation already, so I don't believe we need to take  
42 any action on that item.

43  
44 Is that correct, Donald?

45  
46 MR. MIKE: (Nods affirmatively)

47  
48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Donald is shaking  
49 his head, correct.

50

1 MR. MIKE: Yes, it's already in Federal  
2 Register notice and I think it's close to being  
3 published, so it's up to the Council to take action on  
4 this if they want to show support of this letter and  
5 insert the Council's name on this letter. It will go  
6 forward to the Federal Subsistence Board.

7  
8 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Carl is  
11 coming running to the scene, so we've probably got to  
12 do something. Go ahead, Carl.

13  
14 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So  
15 if you look at the last paragraph, the specific ask of  
16 the letter is actually for the Board to forward to the  
17 Secretary or a request from the Councils to rescind  
18 that regulation. So even though the regulation is  
19 already finalized, what this letter basically intends  
20 to do is to inform the new Secretary of the various  
21 concerns raised by the Regional Advisory Councils  
22 during the previous public rulemaking process that led  
23 to the final regulation.

24  
25 So the attachments would be all the  
26 various letters that the Council sent. So there is a  
27 specific ask to rescind the regulation, which of course  
28 would require more public rulemaking to accomplish, but  
29 that is the request. It's not just to inform of  
30 concerns but to remove the regulation.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Carl.  
33 So we did object to the regulation before, is that  
34 correct?

35  
36 MR. GEASE: Correct, we objected to the  
37 regulation, but this would be going a step further,  
38 which I think would be appropriate.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. It's up to  
41 the Council if someone wants to move to suspend the  
42 rules and take it up.

43  
44 MR. CARPENTER: Mr. Chairman. I move  
45 we suspend the rules and allow the addition of the  
46 letter to Chairman Christianson and allow that to be  
47 added to our current agenda.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Is there a  
50



1 second to that motion.

2

3 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Second.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Seconded by Andy.  
6 Any other discussion on the matter.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 MS. CAMINER: Question.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: The question has  
13 been called. All in favor aye.

14

15 IN UNISON: Aye.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.

18

19 MS. CAMINER: Aye.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: There's one  
22 opposition. The rule stands suspended. We will take  
23 this up. We may as well take it up right now and deal  
24 with it. The floor is open for comments on it.

25

26 MR. GEASE: Mr. Chairman. I believe  
27 this letter is in line with prior action taken by the  
28 Southcentral RAC on this issue. It's asking for one  
29 additional movement to the Board to relay these  
30 concerns to the Secretary of Interior and I believe  
31 it's appropriate.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Go ahead,  
34 Gloria.

35

36 MS. STICKWAN: I don't know if it's  
37 possible. Can we add National Parklands? That's in  
38 statute, I guess. I don't know.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Say again.

41

42 MS. STICKWAN: Just adding National  
43 Parklands to this letter.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Carl.

46

47 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
48 The Kodiak/Aleutians Council was just asking for  
49 endorsement from the other Councils on just the

50

1 Refuge's final regulation, not the Park Service. If  
2 this Council wanted to express concern about Park  
3 Service final regulation, then my suggestion would be a  
4 separate letter.

5  
6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thanks for that  
9 clarification. Gloria.

10  
11 MS. STICKWAN: I was just thinking we  
12 should add Tetlin Wildlife Refuge as well. It's in our  
13 area.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It covers it.  
16 Thanks. Go ahead, Ricky.

17  
18 MR. GEASE: It might have been an  
19 oversight from the Kodiak RAC since they don't have  
20 National Parks on Kodiak, but it would be appropriate  
21 in our region where we do have National Parks to  
22 incorporate the suggestion from Gloria.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yes.

25  
26 MR. GEASE: That is a motion to amend  
27 the motion that we're talking about.

28  
29 MR. CARPENTER: Second.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, let me get  
32 this correct. We've got a motion on the floor to  
33 support it, we've got an amendment.

34  
35 MR. GEASE: We just have a motion on  
36 the floor to approve the letter. The amendment is to  
37 include the National Park Service in this.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. There's a  
40 second to the amendment. You seconded it, Tom.

41  
42 MR. CARPENTER: I did second the  
43 amendment, yes. I'll call the question on the  
44 amendment.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: The question has  
47 been called on the amendment. All in favor to add the  
48 Park Service on there aye.

49  
50

1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2  
3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.

4  
5 MS. CAMINER: Aye.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: One in  
8 opposition. We passed the amendment. Now the motion  
9 on the letter.

10  
11 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead.

14  
15 MS. CAMINER: I think it would be  
16 useful to clarify what concerns we have about this.  
17 The impacts of these regulatory actions on subsistence  
18 and subsistence opportunities. I think we should be  
19 specific. What are these impacts that we are worried  
20 about just to be clear.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Ricky.

23  
24 MR. GEASE: I think at our fall meeting  
25 when we did this we had a pretty good discussion about  
26 why we supported this, so can we reference our comments  
27 from the fall meeting or do we need to go through that  
28 again?

29  
30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We can do that,  
31 correct, reference our stuff from the fall meeting?

32  
33 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. Well, as  
34 noted, essentially this letter is just a cover letter  
35 to forward to the new Secretary previous public  
36 comments that the Regional Advisory Council submitted  
37 as part of the rulemaking. Any deviation from that  
38 would create complications to have all 10 Regional  
39 Advisory Councils to endorse the same letter. We've  
40 already had one Council endorse the letter as is and  
41 then if each Council modifies it along the way, then  
42 not every Council will have an opportunity.

43  
44 Again though my suggestion is if you  
45 want to deviate from this letter, to then transmit your  
46 own letter that provides additional comment, whether  
47 it's to reflect your fall discussion, because that is  
48 after the rule had been published.

49  
50

1                   So if you want to take the opportunity  
2 through the Federal Subsistence Board -- again, you  
3 can't send a letter directly to the Secretary, that's  
4 prohibited -- but through the Board relaying those  
5 concerns as part of additional support to rescind the  
6 regulation and then you could also then include such  
7 discussions about Parklands since that does impact your  
8 region, unlike Kodiak/Aleutians.

9  
10                   CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Can we stir it up  
11 any more. Do you understand it now?

12  
13                   MS. CAMINER: I think so.

14  
15                   MR. GEASE: A respectful comment since  
16 this is just going to the Federal Subsistence Board. I  
17 think they will get the point if we have a couple  
18 different letters. One including the Parklands. I  
19 don't think we need to go in much more detail than  
20 that.

21  
22                   CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We've got an  
23 amendment to add the Parklands, correct? That's  
24 passed. So that leaves us with this letter.

25  
26                   MR. CARPENTER: Mr. Chairman. I call  
27 the question on the motion to forward this letter to  
28 the Federal Subsistence Board.

29  
30                   CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. The  
31 question has been called. Are we ready to vote on the  
32 original motion to forward it. All in favor aye.

33  
34                   IN UNISON: Aye.

35  
36                   CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.

37  
38                   MS. CAMINER: Aye.

39  
40                   CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: One opposition.  
41 So we amended we, we approved it and we forwarded it  
42 and we had one opposition. So carries.

43  
44                   MR. JOHNSON: Just to be clear on the  
45 record though you didn't amend this letter. You are  
46 sending a separate letter and you endorsed this letter  
47 as submitted by the Kodiak/Aleutians Council.

48  
49                   CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That's correct.

50

1 I hope someone gets that right. Okay, Donald, no more  
2 suspension of rules. We're going to go ahead and move  
3 forward.

4  
5 Next item of business is agency reports  
6 and the first one is tribal governments. Go ahead,  
7 Ivan.

8  
9 MR. I. ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Mr.  
10 Chairman. Members of the Council. I'll try and be as  
11 brief as possible. I do have a few things to go over  
12 to report on. For the record, my name is Ivan  
13 Encelewski. I'm the executive director for the  
14 Ninilchik Traditional Council, Federally recognized  
15 tribe in Ninilchik.

16  
17 A few things to report. Since this is  
18 a wildlife meeting, I'll start off just kind of giving  
19 you a few quick things. Most things going on in the  
20 Ninilchik community have to do with moose hunting. We  
21 have an early hunt, a late hunt and then a cow hunt  
22 that we've adopted through various proposals over the  
23 years and those are going real well as you guys know  
24 and have heard over the years. The access to the lands  
25 are limited, so the harvest is kind of small. We've  
26 worked really well with Andy and Todd down there at the  
27 Refuge to set a limit for the cow. I don't think we've  
28 even met the six cow allocation for 15C over the years.

29  
30 The anecdotal evidence obviously from  
31 Ninilchik is 15C has done pretty well for the moose,  
32 for the bull in that area. Anecdotal I think it's  
33 done real well. A lot of our members harvested a lot  
34 of moose this fall in Unit 15C. So things are going  
35 real well. I don't think we really have any issues.

36  
37 We do have a brown bear hunt, as you  
38 guys are aware. Talked to Andy quite a bit about that.  
39 There's some issues with bear baiting obviously. Bear  
40 baiting has a very, very high success rate. One of the  
41 concerns that we have with the issuance of bear baiting  
42 is a lot of our subsistence users -- some of them are  
43 bear baiters, but a lot of them want to have  
44 opportunistic hunting and I think our concern is that  
45 over the years when you have State management where the  
46 pendulum swings so far one way to the other.

47  
48 You know, the brown bear population was  
49 up on the Peninsula, so the State opened up the harvest  
50

1 of brown bears, one every year, so then all of a sudden  
2 now you have bear baiting, you have a lot of brown  
3 bears being harvested. So potentially that swing is  
4 going to come back to where there's a population  
5 concern. The opportunistic subsistence harvesters who  
6 are not bear baiters are going to be impacted because,  
7 of course, all of a sudden the regulations will have to  
8 be shut down.

9  
10 So we do see some concerns in that  
11 area. I know Andy has quite a bit of concern with the  
12 brown bear population, but we definitely want to  
13 maintain the opportunity for subsistence harvest  
14 opportunistic. So that's kind of a little bit of an  
15 issue.

16  
17 We don't have any proposals that we  
18 know of at this time. For the most part on the  
19 wildlife side we seem to have a pretty good working  
20 relationship on the Refuge, so I don't have anything  
21 really to report there.

22  
23 A couple quick reports on the Kasilof  
24 FP17-09. Again, thank the Council for supporting that  
25 unanimously. That proposal was considered by the  
26 Federal Subsistence Board in January. It was denied.  
27 Essentially the only portion of it that was approved  
28 was changing the season dates. Obviously we're very  
29 concerned with that outcome.

30  
31 One, we were concerned with the outcome  
32 because during the deliberations the Federal  
33 Subsistence Board did not articulate clearly their  
34 rationale for not giving 805 deference to this RAC, so  
35 that was not mentioned as a rationale. We do intend to  
36 file a request for reconsideration on that issue. Not  
37 only for the lack of legal deference to the RAC, but  
38 also on new information because, as we'll report later,  
39 there was a settlement agreement on the Kenai which  
40 allowed us to remove the operational plan and name  
41 Ninilchik Traditional Council as the permittee for the  
42 implementation of the fishery.

43  
44 Two things that the OSM and the Federal  
45 Board denied, which is kind of in our -- you know,  
46 looking at it, it's like how can you do one and not the  
47 other, you know. If the Fish and Wildlife Service is  
48 going to accept removing the operational plan and  
49 naming NTC, why would you go to Kasilof River, which  
50

1 doesn't really have any real highly documented  
2 conservation concerns and not allow it in that area.

3  
4 So we do have some concerns with that  
5 action by the Federal Subsistence Board of which we'll  
6 pursue our request for reconsideration on that.

7  
8 I won't belabor the Delegation of  
9 Authority a little bit, but that's a big issue that  
10 we've been working with at the tribe and mentioned it  
11 earlier. I just kind of want to give the layman's  
12 analysis of why it's an issue for us.

13  
14 We talk about frameworks and if you  
15 take like the State management system, the Board of  
16 Fish adopts, you know, like -- they have rules for  
17 commercial fishing, say for setnetting. It says, you  
18 know, you can setnet during this time and whatnot, but  
19 they also have a clear management plan that says if the  
20 early run, the late run escapement goals of chinook  
21 salmon are this, then this plan moves into effect.  
22 Then they do an analysis of what is the return going to  
23 look like. If the return of sockeye salmon is going to  
24 be this high, then this plan kicks into effect.

25  
26 So there's these different parameters  
27 that the in-season managers have to dictate how they  
28 can open it and some of the things that kick in if  
29 there's conservation concerns that are limiting the  
30 ability to open emergency extra fishing time, things  
31 like that.

32  
33 So when we see that on the Federal  
34 level for the Delegations of Authority, they don't have  
35 any of those parameters. There's no parameter that  
36 says, you know, if X escapement is not met, you know,  
37 sport fishing will be reduced first or no circumstance  
38 will Federal subsistence fishing be shut down before  
39 sport fishing.

40  
41 So that's really what we're trying to  
42 get to, is to work with the Federal Subsistence Board  
43 so there's just not that carte blanche authority by an  
44 in-season manager. You know, the in-season commercial  
45 fisheries manager for the State doesn't have the  
46 authority just to open and close. They can only open  
47 and close within those parameters that are set by the  
48 Board of Fish within those constraints that say you can  
49 only open for 36 extra hours this time.

50

1                   So giving them a little bit more  
2 parameters -- and the reason the rationale for an  
3 example like this is that so we don't get stuck with  
4 being closed. For example, and we reported this in  
5 October that we harvested -- we fished for two and a  
6 half weeks with our gillnet. We harvested one chinook  
7 salmon. So why would our fishery be closed down to  
8 conserve conservation for king salmon. But it might  
9 make sense to close down sport fishing for hook and  
10 release or retention when they're specifically  
11 targeting in that same water. That might make more  
12 sense.

13  
14                   So those kind of things should be  
15 developed as the Delegation of Authority, not just one  
16 thing that says you can manage the fisheries how you  
17 see fit, but you can manage those fisheries within  
18 certain parameters, frameworks as we call them. So  
19 that's kind of where we're at with that.

20  
21                   Lastly, the big issue that was  
22 mentioned earlier was FP17-09 or 17-10, which this  
23 Board had approved. We did go through a rigorous  
24 process of working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
25 Service. We've come to a settlement agreement. We're  
26 very happy to work with that agreement. We met twice  
27 with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau  
28 of Indian Affairs. The highlight of that was trying to  
29 develop a meaningful fishery for the subsistence users  
30 and at the same time providing conservation for the  
31 resources. We think we met a really good balance in  
32 that respect.

33  
34                   I did talk a little bit at the Federal  
35 Subsistence Board meeting. The Federal Subsistence  
36 Board adopted the settlement agreement unanimously 8-0  
37 at their meeting. So I think it was a really good  
38 opportunity. I want to talk a little bit about the  
39 premise of that agreement. Donald mentioned that he  
40 was going to forward that information. It's public  
41 information that was passed around at the Federal  
42 Subsistence Board, but I think it's really important to  
43 get on the record.

44  
45                   So the key elements of the principal  
46 summary agreement was that Ninilchik residents be given  
47 a meaningful opportunity to use a single gillnet that  
48 would essentially eliminate any potential conflicts  
49 with existing regulations. We've talked a lot about  
50



1 that. We want to target sockeye and coho with a net to  
2 be placed in shallower nearby waters.

3  
4 The early run chinook must be  
5 protected, so what we talked about is we eliminated the  
6 early in-season in June. So the fishery would not  
7 start until July 1st and there would be no retention of  
8 chinook until the 16th of July unless the optimum  
9 escapement goal was met for the early run chinook.

10  
11 So, in other words, we're not going to  
12 fish in June. If we do fish July 1st to 16th, we're  
13 not going to be able to retain any chinook. They'll be  
14 live releases unless the minimum optimal escapement  
15 goal is met for the early run chinook. There will be a  
16 conservation or retention for Dolly Varden and rainbow  
17 trout.

18  
19 So we talked about there will only be  
20 100 rainbow trout encounters. I call them encounters,  
21 but we've changed the language in the special action to  
22 be different verbiage, to be retained or released. So  
23 at no time will the community gillnet ever be able to  
24 encounter more than 100 rainbow trout or 150 Dolly  
25 Varden.

26  
27 So at any time during the entire season  
28 for when it's fishing even if they're live released  
29 that counts. So at no point can we consider that the  
30 gillnet would encounter more than those two thresholds.  
31 As you know, there's thousands of encounters in the  
32 sport hook and release for Dollies and rainbows, so  
33 that's a really conservative measure to provide that  
34 the fishery can't even encounter those.

35  
36 We talked about one of the issues that  
37 we had was with Cooper Landing that had concerns over  
38 the annual harvest limits and competing interest for  
39 Ninilchik and Cooper Landing and Hope. Those will be  
40 eliminated through the special action request, which  
41 will be adopted this summer and through the permanent  
42 regulations.

43  
44 So there will be no -- the annual  
45 limits are gone. It's just household and individual  
46 limits. So there's no such thing as 4,000 cap for  
47 sockeye that we have to share between Ninilchik and  
48 Cooper Landing. So we can't say that we're going to  
49 get the fish before they will or they're not going to

50

1 get their fish. That will be gone. Everyone will be  
2 allowed 25 for head of household. Five for each  
3 additional member. So it's really a nice way to  
4 eliminate that conflict between the different  
5 communities.

6  
7 The last part we talked about was we're  
8 going to be -- only 200 potential late run kings. So  
9 at no time would be able to go over that whether  
10 they're encountered or retained. So the fishery would  
11 have a potentially later season, September 10th to  
12 30th, which would eliminate that time for the chinook  
13 staging area from the August 15th, so we'd basically  
14 just be targeting silvers.

15  
16 And then in that July 1st to 15th the  
17 slot limit will still be in play so that we would not  
18 at any point be retaining any fish no matter what if  
19 they are within that slot limit. That's another  
20 further protection that U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
21 wanted to because that early run harvest.

22  
23 So really that's -- I know Donald  
24 mentioned that the jack salmon won't count. So 72-hour  
25 reporting. Fish and Wildlife Service is going to work  
26 with us on an area to do that. Really it provides a  
27 nice opportunity to get this fishery, which we've been  
28 working on for 15 years in place.

29  
30 In summary, it provides not only a  
31 meaningful fishery for us, but a conservation-minded  
32 fishery when you take into consideration we can never  
33 encounter more than 50 kings in the early season, 100-  
34 150 rainbow-Dollies respectively, and 200 late run  
35 chinook.

36  
37 So really we have unanimous support of  
38 the Federal Subsistence Board as you're aware. There's  
39 a public meeting on the 24th. One of the discussions  
40 we had is that the implementation of this -- we'd hoped  
41 to implement this through the current existing proposal  
42 FP17-10, but because some of these were not part of the  
43 consideration of that proposal they had to be done  
44 through a rulemaking process and through a special  
45 action request. So we had a little bit of push-back,  
46 but we worked out the agreement with Fish and Wildlife  
47 Service on the implementation of that and I think it's  
48 a good opportunity moving forward.

49  
50

1 With that I think that pretty much  
2 covers the majority of the Ninilchik-specific issues  
3 and from our tribe.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Ivan.  
6 You've got one minute left. You did very good, 14  
7 minutes. I do have a question for you though. Getting  
8 back to the wildlife proposals, you mentioned six cows.  
9 I'd like to know what you did with the other two. They  
10 gave us eight.

11  
12 MR. I. ENCELEWSKI: Mr. Chairman.  
13 Maybe it was eight. I apologize for that. I don't  
14 know how many were actually harvested and I don't  
15 intend to try and put numbers in the Refuge. Todd  
16 usually gives you the numbers. I can say that we've  
17 never taken our allocation.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I was just kind  
20 of kidding you. I wanted to know where those other two  
21 cows went.

22  
23 (Laughter)

24  
25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Anyway, thank  
26 you. Questions for Ivan. A good report. A lot of you  
27 probably if you needed more of the details, there's a  
28 lot of details on that settlement agreement, but it was  
29 unanimous. It was a good deal. I think you've covered  
30 that pretty well.

31  
32 Questions. Judy.

33  
34 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
35 Just a comment. You're right, Ivan, it's been a very,  
36 very long path. I'm glad it's going to work out.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Ricky, go ahead.

39  
40 MR. GEASE: Just a question. So on the  
41 Kenai there's a million sockeyes that come in. There's  
42 probably 50-100,000 coho come in and you got 20 days in  
43 September. S would these new caps then allow you to go  
44 25 coho? I mean how are you going to -- I mean there's  
45 dramatically a lot fewer coho. How are you going to  
46 distribute those? I may be wrong, but I don't see that  
47 that's going to be a big -- you know, filling permits  
48 with that, you're going to have much less success than  
49 filling permits with sockeyes.

50

1 MR. I. ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Mr.  
2 Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Gease. That's a good  
3 question. So to keep in mind that the way this works,  
4 you know, when you think of a community gillnet, we  
5 still have to get permits from individuals, so we're  
6 fishing basically for these individuals. Last year we  
7 almost got to the point where we were almost filling on  
8 the sockeye side those permits that we had available.  
9 Maybe it was 20 or so permits. So we can still only  
10 fill what the limit is for that individual person,  
11 whether it's the household 25.

12  
13 I think for the chinook it's going to  
14 be a lot less. I'm not sure. I'd have to look at the  
15 Federal regulation. I think that the individual  
16 household limit for chinook -- it's 25, I believe, for  
17 sockeye, but it's quite a few less for coho. So we're  
18 only going to be able to fill whatever valid permits  
19 for coho we have. So I don't think we're going to take  
20 too many coho in the late season based on the fact that  
21 we're not getting an allocation for a community  
22 allocation.

23  
24 We still have to apply for those  
25 individual permits that we have. So that's keeping in  
26 mind that, you know -- and when we're talking about  
27 getting rid of those annual limits, yeah, it's nice  
28 because we don't have to worry about allocation between  
29 communities, but we still have to make sure we only can  
30 serve valid Federal permits from each individual, so  
31 that restricts us quite a bit.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I don't know,  
34 maybe someone could answer this, but doesn't that  
35 household limit count? I mean they're both not  
36 cumulative. They don't add up to each other. I  
37 believe they're salmon. So if you take all reds, you  
38 get no silvers.

39  
40 MR. I. ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Mr.  
41 Chairman. Yeah, the way that the -- my understanding  
42 is, and I wish I had it in front of me. It's right  
43 back there I'm sure -- well, actually this is a  
44 wildlife meeting. It's specifically 25/5 for sockeye  
45 and I can't remember, maybe 10/2 coho. But they're not  
46 cumulative. You can't -- my understanding is that you  
47 can't take, you know, a Kenai allocation. Basically  
48 once you get your fish from one area you have to count  
49 it towards the other. So it's not going to be a  
50

1 separate thing.

2

3 We're trying to keep it to make sure  
4 that this isn't used in excess or anything or that  
5 they're getting from this river and then from the  
6 community gillnet and then from this. The community  
7 gillnet is just a mechanism to help get their  
8 allocation. It's not, you know -- but I could be -- you  
9 know, I'm not the rules expert.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I'm not either,  
12 but that's the way I understand it. You only get one  
13 permit, one household limit.

14

15 MR. I. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, one household  
16 limit.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Other questions.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Ivan.

23

24 MR. I. ENCELEWSKI: The last thing I  
25 want to say just real quickly and I forgot to mention  
26 is that we read into the language at the Federal Board  
27 some of our rationale for the settlement agreement and  
28 I just want to reference that back to the Federal Board  
29 at the January meeting and also I want to thank  
30 Kenaitze Tribe on record for their support, unwavering  
31 support over the years. Without their support it  
32 wouldn't be possible for a lot of this too. I forgot  
33 to mention them at the Federal Board, so I want to  
34 thank the Kenaitze Tribe.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Ivan.  
39 Any other tribal governments here, tribal reports.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Native  
44 organizations. Is Eyak here?

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: U.S. Fish and  
49 Wildlife Service. They're going to do one on the Cook

50

1 Inlet area Federal subsistence fishery report.

2

3

Go ahead, Donald.

4

5

6

7

8

9

MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Cook Inlet fisheries report you can find a summary on Page 43. I believe Jeff Anderson is online if you have any particular questions on the fishery report for 2016.

10

11

Thank you.

12

13

14

15

16

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Donald. Any questions for Jeff online. Page 43 has the breakdown of the Kenai, Kasilof, Tustumena and a few others there. Jeff submitted it.

17

18

(No comments)

19

20

21

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Jeff, you win the award for the shortest report. Thank you.

22

23

(Laughter)

24

25

26

27

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: National Park Service. He had a presentation. I was going to skip him. It's Forest Service. Come on up, Milo.

28

29

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36

MR. BURCHAM: Thank you, Chair and board and new members who I haven't had a chance to meet personally yet. My name is Milo Burcham, subsistence lead for the Chugach Forest and I have here with me my counterpart from the Kenai, David Pearson. We're going to try to keep it short. Our normal reporting a little shorter than we usually do so we can update you on a project that we started.

37

38

39

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44

With that I want to introduce the Forest Service members that are here. I just showed you David Pearson, but in the back we have my District Ranger Robert Skorkowsky and Tom Whitford, the Regional Subsistence Lead. They're available for questions. Tom said if you had any budget questions he'd be happy to answer those.

45

46

47

48

49

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Also I'd like to introduce, I think he's listening online, our new Patrol Captain John Brinley, who couldn't make it today. He replaces Chris Lampshire, who was tragically killed last summer in a

1 plane accident.

2

3 But I just wanted to say and recognize  
4 how supportive law enforcement of the Forest Service  
5 has been for our subsistence program, both enforcement  
6 on the ground and implementing this project that we're  
7 going to talk about and other things like deer pellet  
8 transects that we do. Anyway, I want to thank John for  
9 the contribution that law enforcement has provided in  
10 the past.

11

12 I guess I'll get right to what we  
13 normally do and if no one has any burning questions,  
14 we'll mostly skip over it and that is questions on  
15 permits or harvest or conservation issues in our local  
16 areas. If there's nothing burning, I think we'll skim  
17 past that. Does anybody got anything there?

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 MR. BURCHAM: Okay. Deer harvest I'll  
22 mention because Andy approached me at the break. We  
23 did have an extended deer season. His proposal that  
24 passed last year through the month of January for one  
25 buck. I guess there was some discussion about that it  
26 includes all rural residents and not just residents of  
27 Prince William Sound. We had a quick discussion about  
28 that.

29

30 Is there anything else you'd like to  
31 bring up, but it's at your latitude if you'd like to  
32 see that changed and if you'd like information on  
33 participation or harvest as that information becomes  
34 available, if that would guide you in developing a  
35 proposal or whether you saw the need for one, I'd be  
36 happy to work with you on that.

37

38 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Through the Chair.  
39 Thank you very much. Initially it was brought to my  
40 attention. I'm looking at this all rural residents  
41 thing. The intention of that proposal was Unit 6D or  
42 Unit 6 residents, not quite all rural residents. It  
43 came to my understanding that some Hope people wanted  
44 to go out there in January and try to get one buck, so  
45 that's two. I think it's statistically irrelevant and  
46 not so much of an impact. If that doesn't form any  
47 conservation concern, I don't see a reason why not just  
48 leave it at the all rural residents.

49

50

1 If you get this harvest data and more  
2 comes in, I'd love to hear what the harvest is. I  
3 can't imagine it's going to be that big.

4  
5 MR. BURCHAM: My impression from law  
6 enforcement reports that there was interest certainly  
7 in our office and we got calls about the new change to  
8 regulations. People that were in the field saw some  
9 activity, but actually very little. I haven't heard of  
10 a deer harvested. I'm certain something was, but I  
11 haven't heard of a harvest that was related to that.

12  
13 There was interest from Cooper Landing  
14 and that kind of -- yeah. Somebody flew out to  
15 Montague. I assume that hunt happened. I guess I'm  
16 not positive, but there was some interest. There's  
17 quite a few barriers to participating in that hunt in  
18 January as we're aware.

19  
20 The other thing I'd like to talk about  
21 before I get to this is Forest Plan revision. We're  
22 revising the Chugach Forest Plan. I'm on the planning  
23 team, actually chained to a desk for three weeks living  
24 in Anchorage, trying to complete that in a timely  
25 manner. I was lucky to be allowed to come here briefly  
26 today.

27  
28 Anyway, that planning effort is going  
29 on. They're expected to have a draft environmental  
30 impact statement out by this summer and there will be  
31 opportunities for review when that comes out and we'll  
32 keep the Council involved.

33  
34 Is there any questions there.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Ricky.

37  
38 MR. GEASE: As part of this planning  
39 process, is there an evaluation or reevaluation of  
40 current trails within the Chugach specifically in our  
41 ranger district?

42  
43 MR. BURCHAM: By your ranger district  
44 do you mean Seward or.....

45  
46 MR. GEASE: Yes.

47  
48 MR. BURCHAM: Everything was assessed  
49 at the beginning of this process and I can't speak  
50



1 specifically to trails. There's already been rounds of  
2 public comments on issues, but there still is time --  
3 and those have been incorporated into the draft  
4 environmental impact statement and the resource reports  
5 that evaluated recreation. The proposed action and the  
6 alternatives that are being developed have incorporated  
7 those. If you still see a need to comment, there is  
8 additional opportunity.

9

10 I hope that answers your question.

11

12 MR. GEASE: Yes.

13

14 MR. BURCHAM: With that I'll get to  
15 this. I think I have to stand up and advance the  
16 images here. Would you do that? Thank you. So we're  
17 all familiar with the Fisheries Monitoring Program that  
18 exists within the subsistence management. That's  
19 funded in the Forest Service for projects, but wildlife  
20 management not so much. I'd like to thank my  
21 supervisor Robert Skorkowsky for making some money  
22 available to start a project on an area where we had a  
23 resource concern and that's black bears in Prince  
24 William Sound.

25

26 You can go to the next one. Anyway,  
27 there appears to be a resource concern there. This is  
28 boats and trailers going through the Whittier Tunnel.  
29 With the opening of the Whittier Tunnel, lots more  
30 people had access to the Sound. Harvest of black bears  
31 climbed to over 500 animals a year in the 2005, '06,  
32 '07 time period. Harvest has started to drop off in  
33 the most recent years to less than 100 animals for the  
34 last couple of years. We don't know much else about  
35 the population outside of this harvest information.

36

37 Did you start to raise your hand?

38

39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. I just had  
40 a quick question while you were there. It dropped off.  
41 Was that because of the hunting pressure taking them  
42 down, there's not as many? Is that part of the reason?

43

44 MR. BURCHAM: That's the most logical  
45 assumption. Yeah, that's the most we can say. But  
46 something is going on with the bears and we want to  
47 begin to look into it.

48

49 I want to say real quick that there's a

50

1 C&T for black bears for residents of Unit 6C and 6D, so  
2 Cordova, Tatitlek, Chenega qualify for black bear  
3 hunting in Prince William Sound Federal regulations.  
4

5                   Anyway, we got some money together.  
6 Through a Forest Service vessel that we have on  
7 district had a work platform, the boat Tenacious here,  
8 which made working in the Sound much more affordable  
9 than say a typical helicopter darting at operations or  
10 something like that, which would have made getting  
11 collared sample of bears too expensive.  
12

13                   I want to compliment my cooperators in  
14 this project and that's the local Alaska Department of  
15 Fish and Game biologist Charlotte Westing. Between her  
16 and her resources, the expertise at Fish and Game for  
17 handling animals and monitoring animals and analyzing,  
18 bringing statistical analysis to this, and us and our  
19 resources, we've kind of pooled together and jumped  
20 over a lot of hurdles and got a project off the ground.  
21

22                   Next. With that, the goals of our  
23 project because of our means are relatively modest.  
24 These are the first things that we're trying to look at  
25 and one is to evaluate the effectiveness of a ground-  
26 based capture operation versus an aerial one to get a  
27 representative sample of black bears in Prince William  
28 Sound. We want to look at habitat use preferences, but  
29 specifically look at the vulnerability of bears to  
30 shoreline-based hunting pressure since most hunting  
31 pressure in Prince William Sound takes place from  
32 boats.  
33

34                   We want to see if there's differences  
35 between males and females using the shoreline. There's  
36 been people who have said there's really not a  
37 conservation concern for bears in the Sound. They just  
38 got smarter and are not using the shorelines or males  
39 aren't using the shorelines anymore. That's something  
40 that we think we can get at, plus other things like  
41 time of den emergence, you know, from when males become  
42 available versus when females become available and that  
43 sort of thing.  
44

45                   Then the last is if we have a good  
46 enough sample of female bears in our radio-collar  
47 sample is to look at productivity and survival. Look  
48 at how many cubs radio-collared bears produce and then  
49 look at the persistence of those cubs, how long they  
50

1 survive and also survival of our radio-collar bears in  
2 general.

3  
4 Next. So, with that we got a project  
5 off the ground and it was pretty exciting for us. I  
6 just can't state enough that there were mountains that  
7 had to be moved to get this thing going, but by having  
8 the Fish and Game as a partner we got it done.

9  
10 It started out by setting up bait  
11 sites. We started work this summer on a high harvest  
12 density area, which is Esther Island. We set up bait  
13 sites and put camera -- we signed the locations to warn  
14 people and we also made a lot of field contacts with  
15 mostly commercial fishermen that were working in the  
16 area. Then we set up trail cameras at these bait sites  
17 to evaluate how often they were being used and to  
18 inform where best to put our traps.

19  
20 Next. Because of this huge drastic  
21 drop in the harvest and these reports of people not  
22 seeing many bears, we didn't know what to expect, so we  
23 started looking at our trail cam data to see what was  
24 out there and actually we were really impressed and it  
25 kind of took some of the pressure off right away  
26 because we started seeing bears. You could just scroll  
27 through some of these pictures kind of fast. These are  
28 the kind of results -- there's a bald eagle with a  
29 black bear right underneath it.

30  
31 Next. There's a female with two cubs.  
32 Then just go through these fast. That's a black bear  
33 just rolling in the bait there. So, anyway, we got  
34 hits relatively quickly and that was encouraging. We  
35 baited a week, two weeks, and one week before we  
36 started our trapping sessions and then we went in and  
37 set traps. This is what our traps look like.

38  
39 Thanks for your patience, Tom, because  
40 he's already been through this presentation at the  
41 advisory committee meeting.

42  
43 We set traps. These are called M15  
44 snare sets or a modified Aldrich snare sets for bears.  
45 You put a five-gallon bucket in the trees and bait goes  
46 in it and these are set in the areas that we've already  
47 attracted bears to through baiting. A snare goes  
48 around the entrance, the hold to the bucket there and  
49 there's a bait on a trigger arm in the back and there's

50

1 a spring on top of the bucket that's not unlike a 330  
2 Conibear spring. It's a quite powerful spring that  
3 when its trigger is pulled, it snatches the snare tight  
4 around the wrist of the bear.

5  
6 Next. And this is a trail camera  
7 picture of a bear actually being caught. If you look  
8 real closely, there's a snare around the wrist of this  
9 bear. It was pretty interesting. This bear didn't  
10 react very much. Some other bears I think did. We  
11 didn't get a lot of pictures in the moment of capture,  
12 but this one is kind of interesting. The bear just sat  
13 there and actually looked around for a little bit.

14  
15 Next. This is how bears often looked  
16 when we approached. Actually a lot of times they were  
17 bedded down and resting. We tried to get to the snares  
18 as quickly as possible and check them often so bears  
19 didn't have to stay in the snares very long.

20  
21 Next. A little hard to see, but this  
22 is Charlotte approaching I think our biggest bear right  
23 here, an over 300-pound male that's in a snare to dart.  
24 She's approaching it to dart it.

25  
26 Next. Once we got a bear on the  
27 ground, tranquilized, we went to work and we were  
28 collecting samples. Here we are taking measurements.

29  
30 Next. The most important aspect of  
31 this project was to get collars on animals. Next.  
32 This is some of the things the collars did. I guess I  
33 won't go into details. They're GPS satellite collars.  
34 Five locations a day they collect and they transmit  
35 them to a satellite every other day. So in the season  
36 when bears are out and about I'm getting an email from  
37 each bear every other day with locations on Google  
38 Earth map and also a spreadsheet with the coordinates  
39 and everything, which is pretty fascinating and a big  
40 change since I last did a telemetry study about 15  
41 years ago.

42  
43 We're collecting samples from bears to  
44 make the most use of the animals we're handling. We're  
45 getting their weight, blood, tissue and hair samples to  
46 inform State isotope analysis, the research branch of  
47 Fish and Game is going to be looking at. We're getting  
48 two samples to look at age and then just getting  
49 morphological measurements like length and height and  
50

1 head length and width and things like that.

2

3 So what happened last summer. We're  
4 actually pretty happy how things went. We caught 25  
5 bears. The first trapping session -- we had two 10-day  
6 trapping sessions. We caught seven the first time and  
7 we were a little nervous about that, but we caught 18  
8 in the next 10-day session. Twenty of these bears were  
9 large enough to fit radio collars on and that included  
10 a sample of 13 females and 7 males.

11

12 Here's what's amazing. From the bears  
13 that we collared from mid-summer on, we already have  
14 collected 8,000 locations. So we're starting to look  
15 at it. We can't really start any real analysis towards  
16 most of our objectives yet, but anyway we're starting  
17 to look at how to handle that volume of data.

18

19 The first goal we can't completely say  
20 we're through with yet because we don't know how  
21 representative these bears are caught on shoreline  
22 versus those caught in other methods for evaluating  
23 habitat use or something, but we're very happy with  
24 being able to catch the size sample that we did.

25

26 Next. And then real quick. This is  
27 Esther Island. This shows where we established bait  
28 sites. We got this down especially with the help of  
29 law enforcement to be able to set and re-bait and then  
30 check trap -- well, not trap, but be able to set these  
31 bait sites within just an overnight trip, two days to  
32 Esther Island. We could get to all these bait sites  
33 and freshen them up.

34

35 Next. Then through trail cam  
36 observations and other observations these are the sites  
37 that actually ended up being trapped. Then this is  
38 where our sample of bears came from. You can see a  
39 number next to each mark.

40

41 Next. These are the scatter of all the  
42 points that we've got from bears so far. Yellow is  
43 male and blues are the females. Next. On this map is a  
44 scatter of the points that show a different color for  
45 each individual bear. Next. That just shows these  
46 convex polygons that shows the home range of the bears  
47 we have for just half a season. This doesn't show the  
48 whole home range of any of these bears just yet.

49

50

1                   Next. So what's next. Next summer we  
2 plan to go to a low harvest density area, an area that  
3 has received much -- that has had a much lower level of  
4 harvest in the past and presumably a lower bear  
5 population and that's Night Island is what we've  
6 selected.

7  
8                   Actually I'm open for input from people  
9 that have spent more time on Knight Island than  
10 Charlotte or I have as far as observations of where  
11 you've seen a lot of bears, what might be good places  
12 for sets and trapping. We're leaning towards working  
13 on the west side of the island because it's a bigger  
14 place than Esther and working on the bays on the west  
15 side. Anyway, we'd be open to information that we get  
16 from anybody on the Council.

17  
18                   Next. Here is Charlotte and I with a  
19 tranquilized adult female bear. Next. For questions,  
20 feel free to contact myself or Charlotte. I have to  
21 footnote this picture here. This is a Photoshop, a  
22 little creation here. We didn't walk around with our  
23 bears. It's a trail camera picture of two bears coming  
24 to a bait site and then when we checked the camera  
25 later with no bears around got a picture of us. I had  
26 fun with that.

27  
28                   Thanks.

29  
30                   CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That was very  
31 good, Milo. There's lots of bears there it appears.  
32 There's a few more than we thought, huh?

33  
34                   MR. BURCHAM: We don't know what there  
35 was before. It's just a start to look. We're very  
36 impressed with how readily we were able to catch our  
37 sample though that's for sure.

38  
39                   CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Questions.

40  
41                   MR. GEASE: So, Milo, with the hair  
42 samples are you doing any genetic sampling to see what  
43 population estimates -- I know they did that on the  
44 Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. Are you filing  
45 something like that?

46  
47                   MR. BURCHAM: We would like to, but  
48 it's beyond our means right now, so we're not. With  
49 that said, Shawn Farley with Fish and Game Research  
50

1 Division put in for a grant for a much larger, more  
2 comprehensive project that will take place on the  
3 Southern Kenai Peninsula and in Prince William Sound.  
4 They're not going to use hair snares, but they're  
5 looking at biopsy darting of bears from helicopters.  
6

7 It's a proposal at this -- well, they  
8 are funded, they have a proposal, they're still working  
9 their way through it. It might not start on the ground  
10 in Prince William Sound until the fall of 2018  
11 potentially. They will get at that type of information  
12 that that hair snaring project on the Kenai did, which  
13 is estimating populations.  
14

15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any other  
16 questions. Eleanor.  
17

18 MS. DEMENTI: I don't know very much  
19 about bears since we don't hunt them or eat them, but I  
20 was wondering about those traps. They don't hurt the  
21 bear?  
22

23 MR. BURCHAM: Do very little. The arms  
24 or bodies of bears are really well furred, which is a  
25 layer of protection basically. These are 3/16th-inch  
26 cable snares, so it's not like a tight little single  
27 wire snare. Most bears we saw no injuries on. Some  
28 had some level of abrasion from the cable and a few  
29 others had cut up their claws a little bit was the  
30 worst injuries that we saw from this. It's always a  
31 risk. It's at the front of our minds in this whole  
32 process.  
33

34 I guess I didn't describe how often --  
35 I think we got through that slide too fast. We  
36 visually made sure we walked to every snare at least  
37 once every day and we also had a radio transmitter on  
38 each trap. So if it was disturbed, even sprung without  
39 catching a bear, it would send a faster pulse rate that  
40 we could receive from certain areas. We, with our  
41 radios, checked the traps many times a day.  
42

43 There were some bears that sat  
44 overnight, maybe as much as 10 hours, but I think the  
45 average time a bear was in a snare was probably closer  
46 to six, I'm guessing, but six hours or less.  
47 Oftentimes when we'd check snares bears were bedded.  
48 We saw places where they laid down and hopefully were  
49 comfortable for most of the time.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Other questions.

2  
3 (No comments)

4  
5 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you much.

6  
7 MR. BURCHAM: Thank you very much.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. National  
10 Park Service, Barbara.

11  
12 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
13 For the record, Barbara Cellarius, subsistence  
14 coordinator for Wrangell-St. Elias. I believe that Amy  
15 Craver, who was here earlier, distributed to you a  
16 report about the Telida place names workshop that  
17 Eleanor described a little bit earlier. Amy had to  
18 leave, but she just wanted me to mention that she had  
19 distributed her report.

20  
21 I'm going to start with our Backcountry  
22 and Wilderness Stewardship Plan. I've talked to you a  
23 lot about that, so I'm not going to say a whole lot  
24 about it today other than we did put a proposed action  
25 out for public review the summer of 2016. We're making  
26 some changes based on the comments received.

27  
28 The next step in the process is going  
29 to be the release of a newsletter outlining the changes  
30 that were made. A draft environmental assessment is  
31 not anticipated until the fall of 2017. Earlier we  
32 thought we might have a draft environmental assessment  
33 by sometime this summer, but we're taking some more  
34 time, so it will be at least this fall before we have  
35 the environmental assessment.

36  
37 Bruce Rogers, who is our planner, would  
38 be happy to answer any questions and he will be at the  
39 SRC meeting and talking to the SRC members a little  
40 more about where we are with that.

41  
42 Then I'm going to move on to a report  
43 that was also distributed today. It's our subsistence  
44 report and I'm just going to hit some of the  
45 highlights.

46  
47 We are working on a Dall sheep program  
48 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to look at  
49 ram energetics, survival and dispersal under different  
50



1 harvest management regimes. That began in October.  
2 Kind of the same time that this project is going on  
3 there's a NASA-funded snow modeling project. Between  
4 the two projects we'll be able to look at how snow  
5 conditions affect sheep movements and habitat use.  
6 Once we get the project finished up I'm sure we'll get  
7 you more information about what we've learned.

8  
9 We hope to do a wolf survey sometime  
10 this winter in the range of the Chisana Caribou Herd.  
11 That's part of the Chisana Caribou Herd Management Plan  
12 and this is a cooperative effort between the Park  
13 Service, Fish and Game and biologists in the Yukon.

14  
15 We were unable to do our Unit 11 moose  
16 population survey. We try to do a moose survey in Unit  
17 11 every three years and we didn't have adequate snow  
18 cover to do that this fall. There was a composition  
19 count for the Chisana Caribou Herd on October 8th of  
20 2016. There's some details there about the ratios of  
21 bulls to cows to calves. The thing I will mention is  
22 that those ratios exceeded the minimum management  
23 thresholds for continued subsistence harvest of that  
24 herd as outlined in the plan.

25  
26 The second page just has information  
27 about the Federal subsistence hunting permits and then  
28 a couple of projects that we've got going on. We  
29 finished a community harvest assessment in Northway,  
30 which was a joint project with Fish and Game and that  
31 was completed at the end of last year. That's an Upper  
32 Tanana community, so in Unit 12.

33  
34 I'm working with the University of  
35 Alaska Fairbanks on a ethnographic overview and  
36 assessment that's looking at hunters, trappers, miners  
37 and homesteaders. That project will probably finish up  
38 at the end of this year.

39  
40 The third page has some harvest data  
41 for the Federal subsistence registration permits in the  
42 Park. We did this year have our first harvest under  
43 the winter moose hunt. Everything else is actually  
44 fairly consistent with previous harvest levels.

45  
46 Our fisheries biologist has given me  
47 some information from our two weir projects, so that's  
48 on page four. There's a description of the weirs. One  
49 is at Tanada Creek, which is in the north part of the  
50

1 Park off the Nabesna Road. It's one of the headwaters  
2 of the Copper River. The other weir is at Mile 45 on  
3 the McCarthy Road in the Chitina River drainage. If  
4 you look at page five, there are weir counts for the  
5 Tanada Creek Weir, the Long Lake Weir and then a  
6 comparison of the information from the Miles Lake  
7 sonar. I know the Tanada Creek Weir is funded through  
8 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.

9  
10 The bottom of page five is a list of  
11 some of the projects. I'm going over this kind of  
12 quickly. If you have questions about something in  
13 particular you want me to talk about something more,  
14 just let me know. In terms of what we're working on  
15 this summer for fisheries projects in addition to the  
16 two weirs we're working on a burbot project in the  
17 Upper Yukon River drainage. Also a burbot project in  
18 Grizzly Lake, which is in the Copper River drainage.  
19 There's a project in Copper Lake and then as we have  
20 money available we continue to work on our freshwater  
21 fish inventory.

22  
23 The last three pages are the Federal  
24 subsistence harvests from the Glennallen subdistrict,  
25 the Chitina subdistrict and the Batzulnetas area and  
26 those go back to 2002. He's got both the reported  
27 harvest and then he's expanded them to try to estimate  
28 the harvest that we didn't see from people who haven't  
29 sent back in their harvest reports.

30  
31 That's what I have for Wrangell-St.  
32 Elias. I have a Park Service Alaska-wide report to  
33 give you if there's no questions about -- like I said,  
34 I went through that fairly quickly, recognizing it's --  
35 we're trying to get done.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We're not trying  
38 to rush you, Barbara. If anyone has any questions,  
39 feel free to ask them. I just see the fish are down in  
40 2016 here in the Copper River. They're down to 14,000  
41 or something. Anyway.

42  
43 MS. CELLARIUS: The reported harvest,  
44 yeah, it is lower than it was last year. If you look  
45 at the percentage of permits reports, it's lower than  
46 previous years. The difference with the expanded data  
47 isn't quite as great. The water was really high late  
48 in the season. There's other people in the room who  
49 probably can speak better to managing fishwheels, but  
50

1 the fishwheel that I was on got pulled because people  
2 were worried that the wheels were going to get taken  
3 away by the really high water. I think people have  
4 fished longer, but the high water made it hard to fish.

5  
6 So if there are no questions about what  
7 we're doing at Wrangell-St. Elias, I'll just report to  
8 you that on January 12th the Park Service published  
9 final regulations to allow Federal subsistence users in  
10 Alaska to collect and use nonedible animal parts and  
11 plants for making and selling handicrafts. The idea for  
12 this regulation came from several subsistence resource  
13 commissions and there was also a letter from the  
14 Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council.

15  
16 So the rule allows -- new regulation  
17 allows Federally qualified subsistence users to collect  
18 and use nonedible animal parts and plant materials for  
19 the creation and then use or sale of handicrafts in  
20 accordance with ANILCA. Written authorization from the  
21 superintendent is required for the collection of animal  
22 parts. The superintendent may also establish limits or  
23 conditions.

24  
25 The regulation that was published  
26 included two restrictions not specifically related to  
27 subsistence collections. It limits the types of bait  
28 that may be used for taking of bears under Federal  
29 subsistence regulations to native fish or wildlife  
30 remains that exist from natural mortality or remains  
31 that are not required to be salvaged.

32  
33 Based on public comment, the rule was  
34 modified to allow the Superintendent of Wrangell-St.  
35 Elias to issue a permit to allow the use of human-  
36 produced foods upon a determination that such use is  
37 compatible with Park purposes and values and the  
38 applicant doesn't have reasonable access to other  
39 natural materials that could be used for bait.

40  
41 So that's the first provision that  
42 isn't related to subsistence collections. The second  
43 provision clarifies that collecting live wildlife is  
44 not an authorized hunting or trapping practice and  
45 generally not allowed. This clarification was  
46 necessary based on requests from the public to collect  
47 falcon chicks in National Preserves.

48  
49 According to a notice that was  
50

1 published in today's Federal Register, the effective  
2 date of this regulatory package has been delayed to  
3 March 21, 2017.

4  
5 So I wanted to let you know about that.  
6 You should have a copy of both the news release and the  
7 regulation itself.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Judy.

10  
11 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
12 Barbara, in our past discussions on the collections  
13 part there was going to be a permit or there were three  
14 or four options. Where did you land on that?

15  
16 MS. CELLARIUS: So for the collection  
17 of animal parts -- when I say collection of animal  
18 parts, for a long time we called this thing horns and  
19 antler, so you can pick up shed or discarded horns or  
20 antler, sheep horns, caribou antler, moose antlers.  
21 For the collection of animal parts you have to get a  
22 written authorization from the Superintendent. That  
23 can be an individual permit.

24  
25 What Wrangell-St. Elias is considering  
26 is we will have a blanket authorization that applies to  
27 everyone who lives in our resident zone and is  
28 qualified. There's some eligibility. Essentially if  
29 you can hunt an animal in a particular game management  
30 unit, you can collect the parts of that animal in that  
31 location.

32  
33 For plants, the final rule was  
34 modified, so with the proposed rule we were proposing a  
35 written authorization also being required for plants,  
36 but that has been dropped. So the written  
37 authorization isn't required for plants.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Ricky.

40  
41 MR. GEASE: I actually commented on  
42 this one. I just want to clarify. Human-produced  
43 food, would that include dog food?

44  
45 MS. CELLARIUS: Yes. The sentence I  
46 didn't read you is that some of the items that would  
47 not be able to be used are dog food, grease, bread,  
48 marshmallows.

49  
50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any other  
2 questions.

3  
4 (No comments)

5  
6 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,  
9 Barbara.

10  
11 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: BLM.

14  
15 MR. HANKINS: Mr. Chairman, Council  
16 Members. My name is Jesse Hankins with the BLM out of  
17 Glennallen. Just a short report for you. I spoke  
18 previously at our earlier meeting on Federal  
19 subsistence of moose and caribou harvest in GMU 13. I  
20 just want to emphasize that we're trending upward year  
21 after year more and more subsistence users coming in  
22 and getting these permits from us. Harvest is going up  
23 as well. You can see we issued our most permits this  
24 past year 1,384 people coming through the door to get  
25 moose permits in GMU 13.

26  
27 If you flip it over to the next page,  
28 we issued 3,156 caribou permits to date. That season  
29 is still ongoing and will end on March 31st. Real  
30 simple and quick on that report.

31  
32 I did want to speak to the special  
33 action request. There were some questions earlier  
34 today about the Delegation of Authority. Maybe clarify  
35 for Gloria that our in-season manager was issued a  
36 Delegation of Authority under that special action  
37 request to open up up to 10 days of a caribou season  
38 FC-1-16 special action request. It was in response to  
39 a lack of harvest for that Nelchina Caribou Herd in GMU  
40 13.

41  
42 Prior to that season ending, less than  
43 100 caribou had been harvested, which is quite a lot  
44 number. So BLM initiated a conversation and I believe  
45 Dan Sharp forwarded that message on that BLM would like  
46 to initiate a special action request. That was  
47 actually handled in a very timely manner. Less than 10  
48 business days that was all approved and went through.

49  
50

1 In consultation or at least in visiting  
2 with the Eastern Interior RAC and Southcentral RAC, the  
3 field manager did in fact open up that season for six  
4 additional days. I think around 222 caribou were  
5 harvested in those six days. That was a one-time  
6 special action request for Delegation of Authority for  
7 just the 2016 season.

8  
9 Maybe that clarified that. If you have  
10 any questions, I'd be happy to answer any that you  
11 might have.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Questions.

14  
15 (No comments)

16  
17 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Jesse.  
18 Very good.

19  
20 MR. HANKINS: Thank you.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Alaska Department  
23 of Fish and Game.

24  
25 MS. KLEIN: Good afternoon, Mr.  
26 Chairman. This is Jill Klein for Alaska Department of  
27 Fish and Game. I've been listening in to the meeting  
28 today and I don't have any specific reports for your  
29 Council that were requested. If there is anything that  
30 any of you would like to share now or request for  
31 future meetings, we're happy to provide updates.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Sounds really  
34 good. You obviously have no problem with us. We're  
35 doing pretty good.

36  
37 (Laughter)

38  
39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

40  
41 MS. KLEIN: Thank you.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: OSM is going to  
44 do the revisions to the draft MOU on the State of  
45 Alaska then?

46  
47 MR. JOHNSON: Yes.

48  
49 MS. CAMINER: Jesse has one more thing  
50

1 to say.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: He's got one more  
4 thing he missed. Sorry, Carl.

5

6 MR. HANKINS: Again, Jesse Hankins. In  
7 my attempt to be the fastest report, I failed to  
8 mention that there's a special Board of Game meeting in  
9 Glennallen March 18th through the 20th addressing  
10 Copper River Basin issues as it relates specifically to  
11 moose and caribou harvest. They have 43 proposals in  
12 front of them right now. It is moose and caribou  
13 centric and it's anywhere from getting rid of the  
14 community hunt to liberating bag limits. It's all over  
15 the board. Again, March 18th through the 20th Board of  
16 Game meeting in Glennallen.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. All  
19 right, Carl.

20

21 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
22 Members of the Council. Carl Johnson. Just kind of a  
23 quick summary of what was just handed out to you, the  
24 OSM report. We always like to start with our staffing  
25 updates.

26

27 We're pleased to announce three new  
28 hires since your last meeting. First of all we have a  
29 new admin assistant who is in our Wildlife Division.  
30 Her name is Hilary Krieger. She's sitting in the back.  
31 Raise your hand, Hilary.

32

33 We also have a new subsistence outreach  
34 coordinator, Karen McKee. Then he hasn't started yet,  
35 but he'll be starting soon, our new Deputy Assistant  
36 Regional Director and that's Tom Doolittle. You can  
37 look at their backgrounds in more detail on your OSM  
38 report.

39

40 Unfortunately, I also have to announce  
41 the departure of our subsistence policy coordinator  
42 Ameer Howard. She got that nonrural policy wrapped up  
43 with the Board and then hit the door running. No,  
44 she's going to be upstairs or is upstairs now with  
45 External Affairs as their new congressional State  
46 liaison for Regional Fish and Wildlife Service.

47

48 There was a hiring freeze that was  
49 implemented and it's still in effect for Federal

50

1 agencies, but we have been given limited authority to  
2 hire non-competitively, so reassignments internally  
3 within the agencies. So I suspect that we'll be  
4 looking to fill that policy coordinator position from  
5 within Fish and Wildlife Service.

6  
7 Just a couple of overviews for you.  
8 The nonrural determination policy was adopted by the  
9 Board at its January meeting. The Board made one  
10 revision to the policy that you saw at your fall  
11 meeting cycle. At that briefing you were told that the  
12 policy would contemplate that for every fishery cycle  
13 there would also be a call for rural or nonrural policy  
14 or proposals.

15  
16 The Board modified that to make it  
17 every other fishery cycle. So instead of every two  
18 years it will be every four years that the opportunity  
19 will come up to submit proposals. The first  
20 opportunity under the new policy will be the fisheries  
21 cycle next year.

22  
23 Now for the Memorandum of Understanding  
24 between the State and Federal Subsistence Board. A  
25 quick overview again. The State has provided its  
26 comments, it's gone before the Regional Advisory  
27 Councils, it's gone before the State Fish and Game  
28 Advisory Committees.

29  
30 So right now the working group of staff  
31 from both the State and Federal government, OSM,  
32 Interagency Staff Committee members have been meeting.  
33 They met again just this last Friday to iron out the  
34 various different input from the different sources and  
35 they are still working on that. There are still  
36 meetings ongoing.

37  
38 So it's unsure at this point in time  
39 when it will go before the Board again with those  
40 revisions, but we'll keep you up to date on how that  
41 progresses.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Judy.

44  
45 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
46 Carl, even if we don't get a chance to meet and discuss  
47 it, could we get a copy of what would be going in front  
48 of the Board and could it be annotated in terms of  
49 changes?

50



1 MR. JOHNSON: I will check on that. I  
2 mean if, for example, there were little revisions that  
3 could conceivably go to the Board at its July work  
4 session, so we would certainly inform you of what those  
5 changes are. It's hard to say at this point the extent  
6 of which any modifications would be made, how severe or  
7 how minor they are. That will really kind of drive the  
8 timing of when it goes before the Board again or if it  
9 might even come before the Councils again for a second  
10 look if it's significantly modified.

11  
12 MS. CAMINER: Right. I mean the  
13 challenge we had last time is right at the end of the  
14 meeting, here, here's whatever it is, 10, 15-page  
15 document, what do you think. It's just so much easier  
16 to make comments if you know how is it different from  
17 last time you saw it or some folks here who have never  
18 seen it before. So more for our information or at the  
19 Board meeting the Council Chair might want to make some  
20 comments. It would just be easier for us to analyze  
21 that way.

22  
23 MR. JOHNSON: I will definitely make a  
24 request that if it's possible to have kind of a redline  
25 change that shows the additions or revisions to see if  
26 that could be made available, but I will inquire.

27  
28 MS. CAMINER: Okay.

29  
30 MR. JOHNSON: The last item on the OSM  
31 report relates to the Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
32 Program. The call for funding proposals went out in  
33 November and the close for those proposals is February  
34 20th, so a week from today. Between February and May  
35 to Technical Review Committee will be getting together  
36 and they'll be applying the different guidance that  
37 they have for how to grade and rank those proposals.

38  
39 Your opportunity to see those proposals  
40 and their rankings by the Technical Review Committee  
41 will be at your fall meeting. You will be given an  
42 opportunity at that time to provide comments on the  
43 ranked proposals. After that the Interagency Staff  
44 Committee will be doing the same before it goes before  
45 the Federal Subsistence Board at their special meeting  
46 in January next year just on the Fisheries Resource  
47 Monitoring Program.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Judy's got a  
50

1 question. Go ahead.

2

3 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
4 Ricky and Gloria and I were on the subcommittee, as you  
5 know, over last summer to try to set criteria for what  
6 we thought the priority information needs were for this  
7 Council. The last cycle we did have a lot of proposals  
8 submitted but none of them were approved because they  
9 were too expensive or too lavish or out of scope.

10

11 So I hope if the Technical Review  
12 Committee or Staff see that some of these proposals  
13 either need a little bit of help -- I hope that now  
14 fisheries is more staffed up that the proposers can be  
15 worked with so that hopefully we can get some funding  
16 for our region next time around.

17

18 MR. JOHNSON: Through the Chair. I do  
19 know that in recent years projects that have not been  
20 funded have been given feedback on how they can improve  
21 their proposal next time around. In fact there was one  
22 for the Bristol Bay Region that failed its first  
23 attempt and when they resubmitted based on feedback  
24 from the Staff they were actually successful in getting  
25 funded.

26

27 I do not believe there is currently a  
28 mechanism in place where there's kind of a preliminary  
29 review and feedback on proposals and then they're given  
30 a second chance to submit it based on that feedback.  
31 They have to submit the proposal, it's ranked, it's  
32 graded, but they are given feedback after that explains  
33 why it was not successful and they can take that  
34 information and try again next time.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Rick.

37

38 MR. GEASE: Do you have any idea -- one  
39 of the expensive research projects was the Eyak Tribe  
40 monitoring chinook on the Copper River there. We  
41 talked this summer. The issue was trying to find some  
42 match funding for that because I think they were only  
43 going to allow it to 50 percent funding for that. Do  
44 you have any idea if there been any match funding found  
45 or a progress report on finding that match money.

46

47 MR. JOHNSON: Through the Chair. I  
48 have no idea, but Donald, I'm sure, can check into that  
49 and get an answer for that sometime after this meeting.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Very good.

2  
3 MR. JOHNSON: Now I do have one  
4 addition that's not in your report, but just a follow  
5 up on earlier discussion. I did get an email from  
6 Jennifer Hardin. She has researched and has created a  
7 single-page document that summarizes the fisheries  
8 Delegations of Authority for the Southcentral Region.  
9 So Donald has his email and he'll forward it out to all  
10 of you, but I'll just quickly highlight.

11  
12 There are currently three active  
13 Delegations of Authority for this region. Cook Inlet  
14 area, all fish in Federal waters, and the delegated  
15 authority is the Kenai Fish and Wildlife Conservation  
16 Office. The initial year for that was 2001 and it was  
17 renewed a few times and the final letter that's  
18 currently the one still on the books was in 2004.

19  
20 The next one is Prince William Sound  
21 area for freshwater fish salmon, eulachon in Federal  
22 waters of Prince William Sound except for the Copper  
23 River drainage. That's the Forest Service, Cordova  
24 Ranger District. Similar years for the previous one.

25  
26 Lastly, the Copper River drainage  
27 within the Prince William Sound area. That's for again  
28 all freshwater fish, salmon, eulachon and the Federal  
29 waters of Copper River drainage. This is delegated to  
30 the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.  
31 That has the same years of original and most recent  
32 delegation is the other two letters.

33  
34 You'll get this via email and you can  
35 see more of the detail in there.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Appreciate that.  
38 That's good info. Anything else, Carl.

39  
40 MR. JOHNSON: That's it for OSM at this  
41 time. Thank you, Mr. Chair and Members of the Council.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. Okay.  
44 Future meeting dates. We need to confirm the fall date  
45 2017 date and location, Page 44. A little bit of  
46 discussion on this at lunch with Michael down there and  
47 Seldovia. I'm not sure if we're going to make it into  
48 Seldovia, but we could discuss the possibility if  
49 Homer would work and save on the budget. What does the

50

1 Council think of that?

2

3 MR. CARPENTER: Probably a lot cheaper  
4 to get everybody there.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That was just a  
7 suggestion. I'm just throwing it out there if that  
8 works. Donald, that could be a backup plan? Okay.

9

10 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. I guess the  
11 Council agrees on Homer and Seldovia as a backup plan.  
12 I mean we can do that. It's up to the Council.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I'm thinking I'm  
17 hearing it's going to work for everyone. I haven't  
18 heard any objections, so that kind of unanimous.

19

20 (No opposing comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That is on the  
23 schedule here for November 6th and 7th. Earlier we  
24 mentioned October. That's November. Is that correct,  
25 Donald?

26

27 MR. MIKE: That's correct, November 6th  
28 and 7th, yeah.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Ivan,  
31 there's a race November 4th on the East Coast. Just  
32 throwing that out. You might not make it. If it's  
33 unanimous, we're going to stick with November 6th and  
34 7th and it will either be in Homer or possibly Seldovia  
35 if they could budget it. Okay. No objections?

36

37 (No objections)

38

39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

40

41 Next order of business.

42

43 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. Two  
44 suggestions. One maybe not starting the meetings on a  
45 Monday because everybody has to travel to Anchorage.  
46 Just so maybe you wouldn't have to travel on Sunday and  
47 maybe in Andy's case even Saturday. That's a thought  
48 to start the meeting later on in the week.

49

50

1                   Secondly, like we were talking before  
2 and I don't know whether the Ahtna AC will be set up by  
3 then, but I wonder if we would want to consider having  
4 a meeting in March sometime rather than February.

5  
6                   CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We're open  
7 for debate. Judy made a couple suggestions there. Are  
8 there other comments on  
9 the winter meeting. Usually it's in Anchorage,  
10 correct?

11  
12                  MS. CAMINER: Yes.

13  
14                  CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It's in  
15 Anchorage. We usually try to get it in February or  
16 March.

17  
18                  MR. GEASE: Can I suggest the 6th and  
19 7th of March?

20  
21                  CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yes, you can.  
22 That's probably not a bad suggestion. Does that work  
23 for you?

24  
25                  MS. CAMINER: I think that works for  
26 me.

27  
28                  CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Does that work  
29 for everyone else?

30  
31                  (Council nods affirmatively)

32  
33                  CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. March 6th  
34 and 7th it is. I think that's before spring break, so  
35 that's probably not a bad idea. Donald, will that work  
36 to put us on the schedule then?

37  
38                  MR. MIKE: Yes, that will work. Just a  
39 meeting place.

40  
41                  MS. CAMINER: In Anchorage.

42  
43                  CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: In Anchorage.  
44 And this is a pretty good accommodation for people.  
45 I've had comments, feedback that the general public  
46 here and staff and everyone, they've got tables to work  
47 on. We've got wifi. We've coming up in the world. If  
48 it works. I'm just throwing it out there. It's a  
49 pretty good location.

50

1 MS. CAMINER: This was a beautiful  
2 spot.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yes, very nice.  
5 Okay. So we're ready for closing comments. Where do  
6 we want to start. Ricky, would you like to start with  
7 closing comments.

8  
9 MR. GEASE: I'd just thank the local  
10 host here for accepting us for our meeting here. It's  
11 very gracious. They have a beautiful facility here.  
12 It's been a great time having the meeting here.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

15  
16 MR. OPHEIM: Great meeting. I like  
17 seeing the diversity we have on the board now.  
18 Hopefully that will continue.

19  
20 MR. CARPENTER: Just a couple comments.  
21 I know at one time -- it's been a long time ago we had  
22 the opportunity to create a Kenai Peninsula RAC. I  
23 know funding back then was much more substantial  
24 through OSM than it is now. My vision is that  
25 75 percent or more of the proposals on both sides that  
26 come forward from now on are going to be based on the  
27 Kenai Peninsula.

28  
29 I would hope that some consideration  
30 sometime in the future, depending on funding, that my  
31 personal feeling is that this RAC needs to be split  
32 into two. I think it's more fair for the multitudes of  
33 people and user groups on the Kenai Peninsula to come  
34 to resolutions which a lot of us that live elsewhere in  
35 this region don't really understand.

36  
37 So that's all I have.

38  
39 MS. STICKWAN: I'll just say it was a  
40 good meeting. I hope to be here next time.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,  
43 Gloria. I'll go ahead and reserve myself for the end.

44  
45 MS. CAMINER: Very good. Thank you,  
46 Mr. Chair. Thanks, everybody. Welcome to the new  
47 members. We'll just say that this was a pretty mellow  
48 and smooth meeting. Usually we are much more  
49 challenged, but this was a great way for you to start  
50

1 and I think you'll enjoy some of the upcoming topics.  
2 We are a very large region, as you know, obviously.  
3 All the way from Cordova all the way to Cantwell and  
4 down to Seldovia.

5  
6 Tom, I know you might not be from the  
7 Kenai, but you always have some valuable insights to  
8 add as someone who is really experienced not only in  
9 the program but obviously in hunting and fishing.  
10 Personally, like you say, I like the diversity of who  
11 is on the RAC.

12  
13 Thank you.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Andy.

16  
17 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thanks. Good meeting.  
18 Nice to see the new faces. I really appreciated the  
19 Ahtna report on this council coming up and I'm looking  
20 forward to that.

21  
22 MR. HOLSTEN: This was my first meeting  
23 and I'm glad to  
24 hear it was an easy meeting. Even though I missed the  
25 training session for new Council members, I'm going to  
26 be showing up tomorrow to kind of be brought up to  
27 speed. I appreciate meeting everybody here and looking  
28 forward to working with you all.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Eleanor.

31  
32 MS. DEMENTI: Well, I'm learning a lot.  
33 My second meeting. Thank you.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Dan.

36  
37 MR. STEVENS: I appreciate everybody  
38 coming and the information you guys gave us and took  
39 the time to give us. I thank you guys for putting me  
40 on this board. It's going to give me a little more  
41 knowledge of what I'm doing. For a meeting, this was a  
42 pretty short one that I've been to.

43  
44 Thank you.

45  
46 (Laughter)

47  
48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I'd just  
49 make a couple comments first of all.

50

1 MR. GEASE: We have a Council member on  
2 the phone.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: The Council  
5 member online. Ricky is trying to confuse me because  
6 he's sitting in your chair.

7  
8 (Laughter)

9  
10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Diane Selanoff,  
11 would you like to make a comment.

12  
13 MS. SELANOFF: Yes. I'd like to thank  
14 you guys for the training we had previously. I'd  
15 appreciate a follow up with the documents that were  
16 made available today that weren't in the meeting  
17 packet. I'd request additional items like the actions  
18 of the Delegation of Authority from Fisheries.

19  
20 I also want to congratulate the new  
21 Vice Chair and the Secretary. I believe that was  
22 Judith and Gloria. Thank you. It's been a good  
23 meeting. I learned a lot and look forward to working  
24 with the board.

25  
26 I apologize for not making it in, but  
27 the weather looks like it is finally improving.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I guess  
30 you can come for tomorrow.

31  
32 (Laughter)

33  
34 MS. SELANOFF: I'm fine. Thank you.  
35 Very good meeting. I appreciate how quickly everything  
36 moved along and very organized. Again, thank you.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you,  
39 Diane. It's not always quick and organized, but I  
40 thank you.

41  
42 Just a couple comments. Tom, before I  
43 take on the Kenai RAC issue, I think that you've  
44 contributed greatly to both sides and it's been very  
45 tumultuous. A lot of the issues, yes, are on the Kenai  
46 as I see. I've been on the RAC quite a while, but I  
47 just want to bring attention. I think we've made a lot  
48 of ground. I know a lot of the Ninilchik issues that  
49 were from the Kenai were 15 years in the making that

50



1 are coming to resolution and a lot of the subsistence  
2 stuff is as we unite and work together and define and  
3 we do stick to the subsistence. I think we can make  
4 large gains.

5  
6 I want to thank the host and all of the  
7 things here. And Donald, an excellent job you're  
8 doing. I still don't think you ought to be leaving us,  
9 but that's whatever. I welcome your new  
10 replacement for coordinator for us.

11  
12 There's one question I had for you,  
13 Carl. I guess there's supposed to be an all-RAC Chairs  
14 meeting or conference. Is that coming around?

15  
16 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In  
17 all reality, that would have needed to occur before the  
18 beginning of the meeting cycle because now that we're  
19 into this we really can't work on anything else until  
20 it's done. Now if there's still interest from the  
21 Chairs, I'll put it out to the coordinators to see if  
22 the Chairs are still interested and we could still do  
23 that telephonically to address some of those issue and  
24 keep talking about them.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Carl.  
27 Okay. With that said, I sure welcome the new members.  
28 Ed, look forward to working with you.

29  
30 MS. STICKWAN: Ricky had something to  
31 say.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Ricky is going to  
34 have to wait until I'm finished.

35  
36 (Laughter)

37  
38 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Anyway. You're  
39 trying to get me in the middle of my sentence.  
40 Anything else here on the new members. Diane, I  
41 haven't got to meet you yet. Look forward to meeting  
42 you.

43  
44 Ricky, I'm sorry, but I was just trying  
45 to finish up here. You had a comment, go ahead.

46  
47 MR. GEASE: I was just curious. It was  
48 a successful all-RAC meeting. I was just curious of  
49 that is on the calendar for the future. I think the  
50

1 RACs had positive feedback for that. Maybe every four  
2 or six years.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That's correct.  
5 Carl, you're working on that, I know, because you  
6 agreed to it.

7  
8 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, Mr. Chair. It  
9 certainly -- that was one of the reasons why I had it  
10 on your fall agenda for all the Councils to give  
11 feedback on that. Obviously it would be a periodic  
12 thing. I think kind of a logical time to do it is  
13 during the beginning of whatever fisheries cycle is.  
14 So maybe another five years or so that would be good  
15 and I already have some ideas on how to change the  
16 format based on the feedback received from the various  
17 Councils.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Very good. Thank  
20 you, Carl. I know the last one I attended, not to dig  
21 into it, but the Delegation of Authorities was brought  
22 up from quite a few other RACs too. I'd like to see  
23 the works on that. That's good.

24  
25 MR. JOHNSON: I'll add to that, Mr.  
26 Chair. The new member training that Ed referred to  
27 came out of that all-Council meeting. Hearing from the  
28 various Council members who had been in the program for  
29 some time who expressed strong appreciation for some of  
30 the -- even the programmatic issues that previously you  
31 just get kind of a two-hour cursory refresher training  
32 every year at your winter meeting. To hear that  
33 feedback generated the idea of having a dedicated two-  
34 day training session for newly appointed Council  
35 members to come into OSM and have training from all the  
36 expert staff at OSM on the various different issues and  
37 including the opportunity to hear from our Solicitor  
38 what Title VIII means from a Solicitor's perspective.  
39 So that did come out of that all-Council meeting.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. I  
42 just want to thank all the Staff and all the people  
43 that reported. Excellent job and good work. Continue  
44 it.

45  
46 I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

47  
48 MS. CAMINER: So moved.

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1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It was moved by  
2 Judy and it was seconded by half the Council.

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4 (Laughter)

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6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: So all in favor.  
7 We stand adjourned. Thank you.

8  
9 (Off record)

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11 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )  
 )ss.  
STATE OF ALASKA )

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the  
state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court  
Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through  
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SOUTHCENTRAL FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY  
COUNCIL MEETING taken electronically on the 13th day of  
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THAT the transcript is a true and  
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THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or  
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DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 24th  
day of February 2017.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Salena A. Hile  
Notary Public, State of Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 09/16/18